DCP Archive Edition

The Complete DeathWatch 2000

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The Complete

Continuity Comics was an American short-lived independent comic book company formed by Neal Adams in the 1980s.

It mainly published a variety of super-hero comics developed by Adams. These comics were grittier than the mainstream Marvel or DC Comics of their day, often depicting bloody, graphic violence. In one issue of the Armor comic the title character has his hand chopped off and then the appendage is destroyed in a blender. The costume and the cover artwork for the character Samuree were often revealing, and she was sometimes drawn in sexy poses on the cover of her comic. This was only unusual in context. Such comics are not uncommon today, but they are rarely sold next to The Fantastic Four or Superman, like Continuity's were. Continuity was part of a trend towards more eroticism in depicting comic characters, especially female ones.

During the "variant cover" craze, Continuity got into Tyvex (marketed as "indestructable") and die-cut covers, crossovers (Deathwatch 2000 and Rise of Magic), and the like. The line was cancelled during the Rise of Magic crossover in 1993. Several more recent titles and characters wound up being published by others. Samuree, Valeria and Knighthawk would be published by Acclaim's Windjammer line. Ms. Mystic first appeared under Pacific Comics line. The line received much criticism from comics retailers (particularly columnist Brian Hibbs) for its inability to ship its product on time or according to schedule.

As always, if you have something to say, a question or suggestion drop me an e-mail at sypherpunk@hotmail.com.

Cordially,

Kritter-DCP

I want to start by saying a deep-felt thank you to all scanners everywhere, not just those whose work may be included in this compilation. Since the material comes from many sources and there are times where all reference to the original scanner has been removed. I have decided not to compile a list of scanners. I do not wish to slight anyone or be accused of stealing material. I wish to make it clear, I compiled this file from existing scans, this is not a rescan. If editing has taken place this is typically for the purpose of making a page more legible. The edit should not be taken by the original scanner as an insult to their ability. Furthermore this compilation is not meant to replace the original scanned material, but a practical way to collect a storyline.

WHAT INSTINCT BRINGS YOU HERE, VALERIA... OF THE MYRIAD "VIBRATIONS" THAT YOU SENSE? WHAT DO YOU HEAR THAT OTHERS DO NOT?
TALKING? SMALL TALK, ABOUT... A WALT DISNEY MOVIE... ROBIN...
RKING
...ROBIN WILLIAMS.
HA HAHA
AHAHAHA
AHAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAWHOOP
NO... NOT ROBIN WILLIAMS...
OR THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER.
THERE... NOW IT COMES... A DEEP GRINDING RUMBLE FROM DEEP UNDER THE EARTH.
RISING UP TOWARD THE SURFACE, ROCK SHEERS!
THE MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD SHUDDER... INWARDLY AND OUTWARDLY AS THOUGHTS OF ROBIN WILLIAMS ARE DRIVEN FROM THEIR MINDS.
TO BE REPLACED BY THOUGHTS OF EARTHQUAKE.
BUT YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS NO EARTHQUAKE.
THIS... IS DIRE AND PERSONAL... AND IT STRIKES SUCH FEAR INTO YOUR HEART.
EVEN SO, YOU KNOW YOU WOULD NEVER TURN AWAY FROM THIS!
NEVER AGAIN!
NICTATING LIDS CLOSE.

YOU DROP... DOWN, INTO THE DARKNESS LIKE A PLUMMET... PARTING THE THIN SEA OF AIR... UNTIL IT FILLS YOUR HUNGRY WINGS...

YOU SOAR...

...LIKE A GULL...

...OR A BAT.

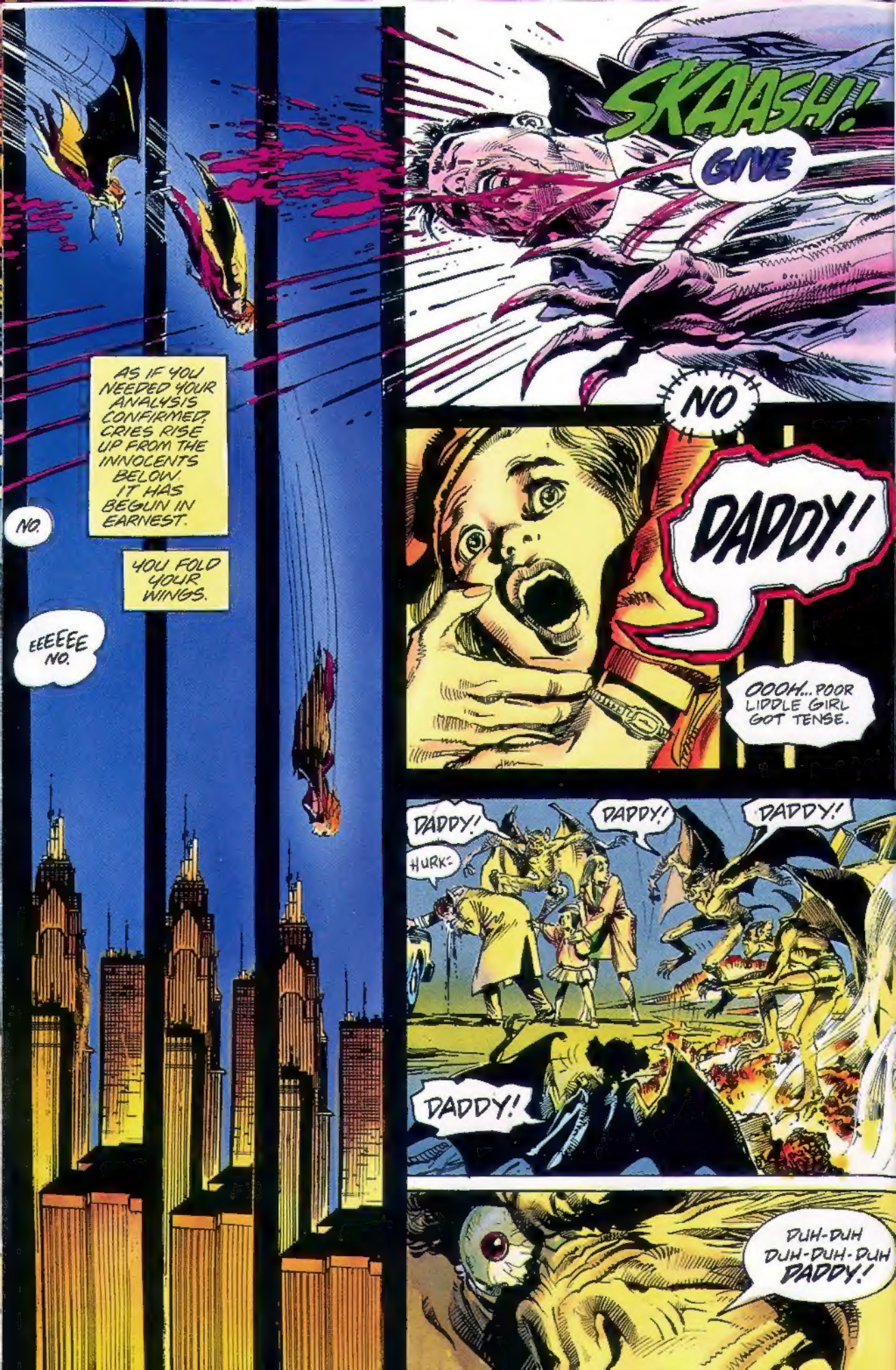
...OF COURSE...

...YOU ARE LESS A BAT... VALERIA...

...AND MORE A DEMON!

Story and Art: **Neal Adams** Additional Writing: **Peter Stone** Lettering: **Jade Moede** Color: **Cory**

Valeria the She Bat TM No.1 May 1993. Published by Continuity Publishing Inc., Neal Adams, Publisher. Kristine Adams, Associate Publisher. Entire Package©1993 Continuity Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Nothing may be reprinted without written permission from the publisher. Any similarities to real people or places in fiction and semi-fiction is purely coincidental. Valeria the She Bat©, Werebreds©, 'Rilla©, Jagarundi©, Hyena©, Werewolf©, and Lith Kasti the Fire Bat© 1993 Neal Adams. Valeria the She BatTM is published monthly. Inquires regarding distribution and subscriptions should be sent to Continuity Publishing 62 West 45th St. New York, NY 10036 USA (212) 869-4170. Circulation Manager Kris Hartz. Annual subscription rate $30.00.


AS IF YOU NEEDED YOUR ANALYSIS CONFIRMED, CRIES RISE UP FROM THE INNOCENTS BELOW. IT HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST.
NO.
YOU FOLD YOUR WINGS.
EEEEEE NO.
SKAASH!
GIVE
NO
DADDY!
OOOH... POOR LIDDLE GIRL GOT TENSE.
DADDY!
DADDY!
DADDY!
HURK-
DADDY!
DUH-DUH DUH-DUH-DUH DADDY!

DADDY!
DADDY!
DADDY!
DADDY!
DAAADDY!
STOP IT!
SSSSH DIANE.
STOP IT!
WHEELP! OUTTA MY FACE!
:GASP:
GOD.
MAAMA MA
SSSHUUD
GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT...
SHE'S HIT THE CARS HOOD... GOOD AAAND GOT HER!

TAKE HER!
DIANE, DIANE. OH MY GOD! YES THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
TURN, HIBRID!
YOU DARE OPPOSE OUR ASSIGNED WILL!
YOU ARE ONE OF US!
SUBMIT... OR BY THE DEPTHS WE WILL SHRED YOU!
YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY MORE STUPID!
DEFEND YOURSELVES!
YOU... WILL SHRED ME?
YOU MUST BE A GREAT DEAL MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU LOOK!
MOMMY...DAD SHE'S PRETTY. IS SHE A HERO LIKE BATMAN?
NO HONEY. SHE'S SOME KIND OF ANIMAL... LIKE... THEM.
MAYBE ...WE CAN GET PAST THEM GET TO THE POLICE.

ONE OF THE DEMON BATS HAS SILENTLY CIRCLED TO BEHIND YOU VALERIA.
WILL YOU SENSE HIS ATTACK...
IN TIME TO DEF...
WHARG!
SHUK
FOOL! DID YOU SUPPOSE I WOULDN'T SMELL YOU?
... TASTE YOU? FEEL YOUR VILE PRESENCE BEHIND ME?
YOUR FINGERS VALERIA, HAVE GRASPED HIS BLOODY STERNUM... WILL YOU FINISH HIM OFF?
CLOSE ENOUGH...
KRANG
WH... HUGGH...

TAKE FLIGHT BROTHERS. THE HALFBREED HAS EARNED OUR WRATH.
HATE HER!
SSSSSHREAD HER!
THE DEMON-PACK LAUNCHES ITSELF, DRIVEN BY ANCIENT PREDATORY INSTINCTS.
THE WEAK TRAPPED PREY IS SURROUNDED, CONFUSED, TERRIFIED THEN ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES...
...AND TURN TO PIECES.
MOMMY THEY'RE HURTING HER!
SHUD
THIS "PREY" HOWEVER HAS INSTINCTS OF HER OWN...AND THE TRAINING TO BACK IT UP.
THE FIRST DEMON FOUND BY HER CLAWS...
...IS PERHAPS THE LUCKIEST.
HUK-AGG!
THE SECOND IS NOWHERE NEAR AS LUCKY... NOWHERE
CLOSER HORDE-MATES COME CLOSER.
...NEAR... AS LUCKY.

ARRRRRGH
SHUK
SLOW-WITTED.. WEAK... SCUM! YOU DARE FACE VALERIA!
URGLE!
ANCIENT GODS... IT IS VALERIA, THE WEREBRED!
S..S..SHE'LL KILL ME! ESCAPE.
YOU DARE CHALLENGE SHE-BAT UNPREPARED?
WHAT ARE YOU LOW-BURNS DOING ON THE SURFACE? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
UH-UH UH
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN...
...STEALING?
MONEY?..
...CASH?
YOU'RE...
STEALING MONEY? WHY?
NOT US... NOT US I SWEAR WE GATHER IT FOR OUR MASTER...
...LITH KASTI.
WHAT USE HAVE YOU FOR MONEY...
PIT MONGER?
LITH KASTI?
LITH?

LATER - LONG AFTER A TREMBLING LITTLE GIRL HAS FALLEN ASLEEP IN HER TREMBLING PARENT'S BED.

A GATHERING OF THE NOUVEA - RICHE... HIGH FASHION MODELS - WRITERS - PUBLISHERS - ARTISTS - ACTORS - CINEMA CRITICS - PROFESSIONAL ATHELETES - SCIENTISTS -

THEY HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE THE BEST SOCIETY HAS TO OFFER

TRAGICALLY, THEY ARE PROBABLY RIGHT.

THE ONE THING THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT THEY ALL KNOW...

OH, GHOD. SHE CAME AFTER ALL

"HER.

FANS?

YOU'RE A COMMUNIST ERIC

UM...

THIS IS BUSINESS, NOT BUSINESS.

SWINE.

IS THAT A MOSCHINO?

...TOLD THEM YOU'D MAKE IT.

FASHIONABLY LATE... TWO HOURS..

MADE THE COVER.

WELCOME, VALERIA!

THANK GOD YOU MADE IT.

WHY... HAS IT BEEN BORING?

HMMFP, I WAS ALMOST CONVINCED THAT SHE WASN'T COMING TONIGHT.

WONDER WHAT CHANGED HER MIND.

INCREDIBLE NATURAL BEAUTY

SHOWING OFF AGAIN..

BET SHE BOUGHT THE PAIR...

DARLING WE HAVE TO TALK.

THAT A MOSCHINO DRESS?

HIYA DOLL.
SHE'S RIGHT, FOOTBALL HERO.
I KNOW SHE'S ALWAYS RIGHT.
PLEASE MISS, AMO...
SELL IT TO A SNAKE, ROMEO.
LESTER CAIO.
HELLO, BOYS. FOUND A NEW DESIGNER?
STUNNING.
I KNOW, I JUST LOVE HER.
CHIC.
BACK ON THE FIELD, YOU BUFFALO. YOUR GOOD LIFE IS SHOWING.
TREMENDOUS LEGS.
VALERIA, I HAVE JUST THE SITUATION FOR YOU.
LATER SIMON, LATER. I'M ON A MISSION FOR GOD.
THE CHAMPAGNE NEEDS TASTING.
CALL, PARTY GOERS. I'M LOOKING FOR THE "BEAST WHO WALKS LIKE A MAN"
YOUR HOST... THE STEALER OF YOUR WOMEN.
BUSTER ON THE BUTT OF MY...JOKE...
RILLA!
SO... I TENSED MY THIGH MUSCLES AND...
RILLA!
DON'T YOU WALK AWAY FROM ME, OR I'LL BURN YOUR COMIC BOOKS.
HMMMM 'SCUSE IT GIRLS.
ITS THE CALL OF THE WILD.
'YOU'RE LATE FOR YOUR PARTY VALERIA.'
IT ISN'T A "PARTY" 'TIL I GET HERE BIG GUY! C'MERE...
...YOU TEDDY BEAR, YOU!
MMMMAP!

HEY...
HEY.. NIX ON THE KISSY STUFF. I GOTTA REPUTATION TO PROTECT.
TOUGH GUYS DON'T KISS THEIR SISTERS IN PUBLIC.
LET'S FIND A QUIET CORNER, BRO. WE HAVE SOME FAMILY BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.
YOU DON'T WANT EVERYBODY TO KNOW YOUR MARK SILVESTRI FAN CLUB CARD CAME IN THE MAIL... DO YOU?
OKAY, OKAY... YOU RUINED THE PARTY ALREADY. WHAT'S THE NOISE?
HEY... I TOLD YOU TWO DAYS AGO I WASN'T COMING.
SO YOU CAME.
SO?
I WAS OUT TONIGHT...
YOU KNOW, FLYING.
WHATEVER... AND THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.
UMM...
PATROLING!
YOU'RE A BIG GIRL, STUPID... BUT...
I... RAN ACROSS A NAME I HAVEN'T HEARD IN A LONG TIME.
YAH?
...LITH KAST!...
YOU REMEMBER LITH KAST!?

LITH KASTI... LIKE A GAS PAIN SHOOTING THROUGH MY GUT. LITH KASTI... GOD, I HATE YOU!

THE SHUTTER OF 'RILLA'S MEMORY JAMS TO A STOP ON A DAY SEVEN YEARS AGO...WHEN...
JUST SMASH EM' TALK LATER.
ARE THESE THEM, OR NOT?
THEY'RE BATLIKE, LIKE YOU SAID...ARE THEY...
REFEEEE
THEN... A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD WEREWOLF LOSES HIS TEMPER..
GRRRROK
PUNK! HE GOT MY GUN!
A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD WEREWOLF LOSES AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON TO A BAT DEMON.
RUK?

DOOM DOOM DOOM DOOM DOOM DOOM
FINALLY THE SIXTEEN YEAR OLD WEREWOLF GETS THE AUTOMATIC WEAPON BACK.
GIVE..
ME...
THAT!
DIVING? GOOD!
FLY ME TO YOUR PALS... SO I CAN DO THIS!
SKREEECH!
C'MON YOU SLUG... I'M NOT THAT SUCKIN' HEAVY.
STAY UP, YOU SCUMM, STAY UP!
YWOOP
HEY.
LOOK OUT!
KEE
HYENA??

C'MERE
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN' BEHIND THAT ROCK?
CHILL WOLFBREATH!..
..OFF MY BACK...
I'M TAKIN' OUT THESE BAT THINGS JUST LIKE YOU GUYS...
BUT ARE THESE THE RIGHT THINGS? ASK 'RILLA...
NO! THEY'RE NOT!
REEEOW
RK!
SO LET'S GET ON WITH THE KILLIN'!
JAG!
BUT THEY ARE WORTH KILLING
YESSS!
K-DOW

AW-RIGHT YOU GUYS, LET'S STOP PLAYIN' AROUND AND DUST THESE NIGHTMARES OFF.
THEY'RE STUPID AS TREES...
...AN MEAN AS RATS, WE GOT STUFF TO DO.
C'MON.
KKRACK
THEY'RE GOIN' THEY'RE GOIN'! YA BIG MONKEY, THEY'RE TOO STUPID TO KNOW WE'RE KICKIN' THEIR BUTTS.
SHAKASHAKASHAKAS
SHAKASHAKASHAKAS
KKRACK
RRAEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
MAN O'MAN 'RILLA, I GOTTA TELL YA IF THIS WASN'T SUCH SERIOUS STUFF WE'RE DOIN',
I'D DO IT ANY WAY. I HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN SINCE I TURNED INTO A WOLF IN FRONT OF MY THIRD GRADE TEACHER.
DO PEOPLE, REGULAR PEOPLE, KNOW ALL THIS STUFF'S UNDER GROUND?... IN THESE CAVERNS?

I MEAN... SOMEBODY OUTTA TELL NATIONAL GEO ABOUT THIS.
JAG'LL DO IT. HE'S THE BRAINY-TYPE.
I'M NOT SO SURE WE SHOULD REVERT TO OUR HUMAN FORMS SO QUICKLY..
RELAX JAGURUNDI. TAKE A BREAK.
ALL OF US SEEM TO BE ABLE TO REVERT TO OUR WERE FORM QUICKLY ENOUGH
YO 'RILLA...
HOW CUM WE ALL LOOK REGULAR HUMAN WHEN WE UH...
UHM?
AND YOU STILL...
RRRRRR!
WHAT? WHAT?
OH...UH NEVER MIND. FORGET IT.
WHAT?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY... YOU DOG-FACED PUNK?
I LOOK AS HUMAN...
'RILLA, THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PRETTY VAGUE DOWN AT THIS LEVEL. YOU GOT SOME INPUT?
SORRY I'M RUNNIN' ON INSTINCT NOW.
I FIGURE AS LONG AS WE'RE GOIN' DOWN WE'RE ON TRACK.
HEY 'RILLA... WHEN WE FIND YOUR SISTER YOU GONNA RECOGNIZE HER.
ODD.
HEY! YOU GUYS HEAR SOMETHING?

RUK

KEEEE

OOOOOH GET AWAY! GET AWAY! GET AWAY! GET BACK!

OH SH...

GOOD LORD :CHOKE:

BUST... OR WE'RE DINOSAUR DESSERT!

LEEGUN

HARG
S'AT A DINOSAUR?
GOT SIX LEGS MAN... I DUNNO.
BACK THERE!
CHONK
RIKR CRACK
YOW!
HE BIT THE ROCK.
RU-RU-RU-R'
HE'S MESSED UP. HERE'S OUR CHANCE GET OUTTA HERE.
WAIT... LOOK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAVE. SOMEBODY'S GLOWIN'.
IT LOOKS HUMAN.

NOT HUMAN... MORE A GOD. RANGING IN THE SUBTLE FORCES OF NATURE TO ACT AS HER BECKONS.
A GOD...
A FORGOTTEN GOD... A USELESS GOD. HIS NAME IS UMPFAL.
TODAY... HE HAS A PURPOSE.
...AND HIS AIM IS TRUE.
STUNNED THE BEHEMOTH SWAYS, THEN LIKE A RIVEN TREE SLOWLY FALLS SENSELESS. EVEN SO THE WEREBREDS KNOW HE WILL RISE AGAIN.
THE GOD... NOW A SHEPHERD TO A STAND OF DINOSAUR-LIKE BEASTS.
SADLY HE WAVES.
HEY, HEY, HEY, GUY. DON'T GO. HANG ON... WH...
FORGET IT. HE'S GONE.
GUYS... OVER THERE IN THAT SIDE TUNNEL.
I THINK WE'VE FOUND HIM
WEREBREDS! THIS WAY. HURRY.

AND IN MOMENTS.
ARE YOU?
SILENCE! SHE, WHO YOU SEEK, IS IN THE GRAVEST OF DANGER!
THE VILEST OF CRIMES ARE NOT BELOW HIM.
YOUR SISTER'S LIFE..... MAY ALREADY BE FORFEIT.
SKAK
FOOL!
DO YOU HOLD YOURSELF SO HIGH...
...THAT YOU WOULD DENY THE WILL OF LITH KASTI?
SLUG!
DO YOU THINK THAT PIN WOULD PRICK MY HIDE!
NO MORE... SHALL YOU DENY ME THE FLESH THAT HAS EVER BEEN MINE.
THE TIME HAS COME THAT YOU WERE BRED FOR. THE BROTHER MUST BE...

..PULLED ASIDE!
HAR
YESSS YOU ARE TRULY EQUAL TO THE TASK, HALFBREED.
COME TO ME...
...WILLINGLY!
NEVER!
NEVER KASTI, YOU BUG SUCKING VERMIN. YOU'LL NEVER HAVE ME WILLINGLY.
NO... NOT WILLINGLY? BETTER YET... UNWILLINGLY.
HOW BETTER TO ABSORB YOUR LESSON! YOU-ARE-OWNED... SHE-BAT...
...OWNED...
...BY LITH KASTI...
THE DEMON BAT!
AND I SHALL MASTER YOUR FLESH THIS DAY WITH MY FLESH!
N..N...NO... PLEASE.

AAARGH!

EAT STEEL, SCUM BAT!

BLARGH!

ANYWAY YOU'VE GOT TO DECIDE *VERY* QUICKLY. MY PALS WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD OFF THIS GUY'S PALS MUCH LONGER.

I'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO COME TO GET YOU FOR SIX YEARS, KID. IT TOOK ALL THAT TIME TO FIND A BUNCH OF GUYS THAT WERE WILLING TO GO TO HELL... AND BACK WITH ME.

YOU... WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WH..WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO LITH KASTI... YOU'VE... YOU'VE... WHO ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR BIG BROTHER, KID... WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO REMEMBER, AND I'M TAKIN' YOU HOME.

...IF YA WANNA COME.

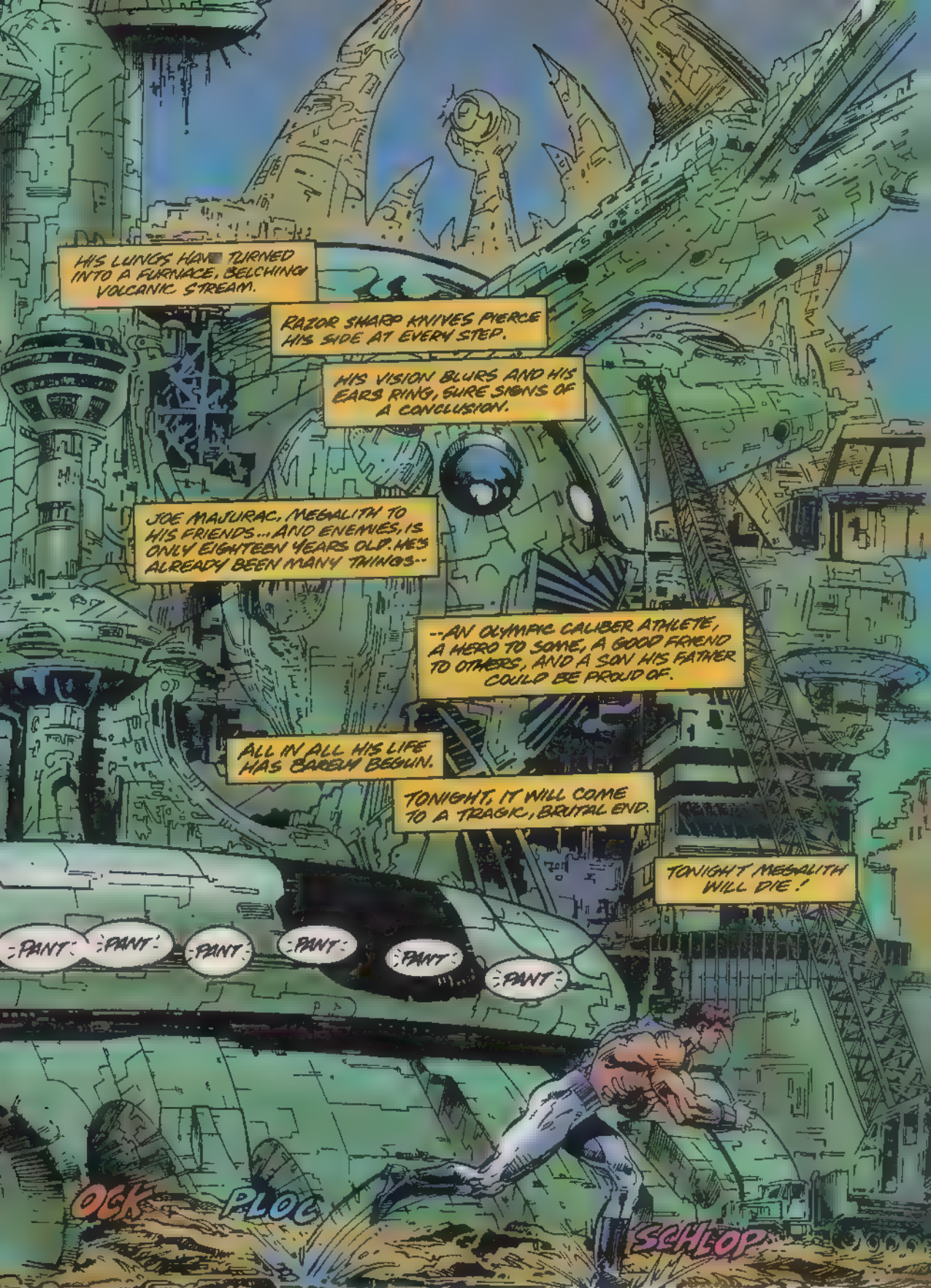
FLAP FLAP FLAP ARRRGGH!

IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY HERE, I'M AFRAID THINGS COULD GET A BIT DICY.

JUST GIVE ME A WEAPON... SO THAT I CAN *KILL* SOME OF THESE LEECHES AS WE GO.

YOU... REMEMBER LITH KASTI?
I REMEMBER ... WHY?
HE'S BACK.
CHINKE

Ah, Mr. Mayor, I'm glad you're here.
Yes, I'm sure you are.
Now, I'm sure you've heard about the recent rash of robberies.
Yes, I'm sure you have.
Now, I'm sure you've heard about the recent rash of robberies.
Yes, I'm sure you have.
Now, I'm sure you've heard about the recent rash of robberies.
Yes, I'm sure you have.
Now, I'm sure you've heard about the recent rash of robberies.
Yes, I'm sure you have.



Plot: **Neal Adams** Story **Peter Stone** Pencils: **Malcom Davis** Inks: **Andres Klacik** Colors: **Paul Mounts**
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PANT
GASP
PANT
HUNH
PANT
BRINGS DOWN A HERO.
HUNH!
UNSURE FOOTING...
NO...
I... GASP... CAN'T RUN ANYMORE.
NO CHOICE LEFT... IT'S FIGHT OR DIE!
NEED SOMETHING TO MY BACK...
AND HOW CAN I POSSIBLY STOP THEM!?

HE'S OVERWHELMED... FIVE BLACK SHAPES SHOOTING TOWARD HIM. SWARMING AND SMOTHERING.
HE STAGGERS...
LIMPS...
BACKWARD...
HE FIGHTS BACK A RISING PANIC. HE REACHES FOR SUPPORT... AND FINDS A WEAPON.
MY HARD RUBBER WRIST BAND WILL ABSORB THE IMPACT.
UGGGH!
SECURING RIVOTS EXPLODE OUT OF THE GROUND AS JOE MAJURAC, YOUNG HERO...
TOO SOLID.. GOTTA KNOCK SOME CONCRETE OFF FIRST.
CAN'T USE FIST... IT'LL SHATTER MY HAND LIKE GLASS.
...PITS HIS STRENGTH AGAINST THAT OF REINFORCED CONCRETE.
THE OUTCOME OF THE CONTEST IS NEVER IN DOUBT.
HUARG!
PROPELLED BY MUSCLES HARDENED THROUGH ELEVEN YEARS OF INTENSE WEIGHT TRAINING, THE 865 POUND HUNK OF METAL ROCKETS FORWARD WITH UNERRING PRECISION.

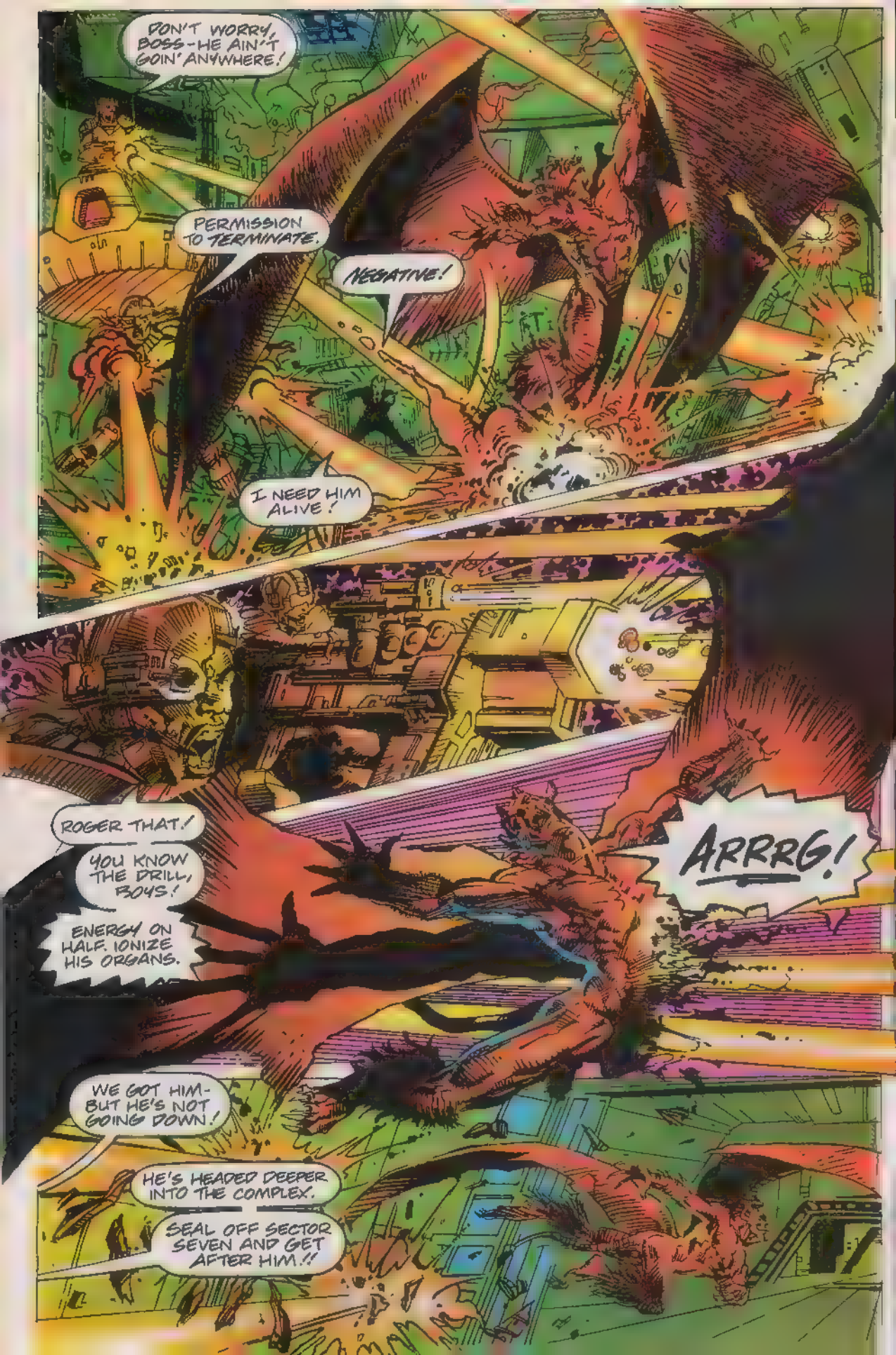
MEGALITH--
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED FROM OUR LAST MEETING?
HELLHEART IS YOUR MASTER IN POWER--
--AND YOUR ALLIES AREN'T HERE TO SAVE YOU!
NOT THIS TIME, MEG.
OUR MASTER DEMANDS YOUR DEATH
HUARG!
YOU'RE-
-ALL-
-ALONE!
HEY LEPER!..
...LEMME IN ON THE HERO-ROAST!!
YEEARRRG!

HIS SKIN BUBBLES AND...
HE HEARS NOTHING BUT PUMPING BLOOD!
HE RISES FOR A FINAL...
ATTACK? AN ACT OF DESPERATION I THINK!
WHUARG!
REM... ENOUGH, HE PROBABLY WON'T SURVIVE AS IT IS. LEAVE YOUR APPETITE ASIDE.
AH, THE SWEETEST OF ALL... THE LAST THOUGHTS OF A DYING MAN.
SO STRONG IS HE... BUT HIS LIGHT IS FADING.
LEAVE HIM, REM!
WE HAVE CRUSHED HIM ALREADY...
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOUR FINAL COUP DE GRAS.
AH.
HE IS ALL BUT GONE, HELLHEART.

THEN SO WE SHOULD BE GONE, AS WELL.
YOU SPOIL ALL MY FUN, HELLHEART.
BUT, THE PLAN MUST GO FORWARD, I SUPPOSE.
MEANWHILE, IN A MYSTERIOUS LABORATORY JUST OUTSIDE NEW YORK,
WH-WH-WHY...?
WHY... ARE YOU... CHOKE... DOING THIS TO ME, DORIAN?
WHY? HAVE I NOT SERVED YOU WELL?
WHY?!
BECAUSE YOU FAILED TO IMPLEMENT MY PLAN TO RULE THIS PLANET!
AND BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE SOMETHING I WANT DEVILSPAWN!

SINCE THE HYBRID YOUNGLINGS PROVED TOO DIFFICULT TO CONTROL OR DOMINATE...
I ENTRUSTED YOU WITH THE TASK OF DESTROYING THEM ACCORDING TO MY... CAREFULLY WORKED OUT PLAN.
BUT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DESTROY THEM BEFORE THEY REACHED EARTH.
YOU FAILED.
YOU EVEN BROUGHT THEM HERE, PROVING A NEW HOME... AND ALLOWING THEM TO REMAIN COMPLETELY AUTONOMOUS.
SINCE YOU HAVE PROVEN A MISERABLE AGENT...
THERE IS ONLY ONE OBJECT YOU HAVE LEFT THAT IS USEFUL TO ME-
YOUR BRAIN!
THE FUTURE IS HYBRIDS, DEVILSPAWN! THERE WILL BE NO PURE RACES...
AND THE MAN WHO CONTROLS THESE HYBRIDS WILL RULE THE UNIVERSE!
I WILL BE THAT MAN!
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?! YOU KNOW THAT HYBRIDS ARE MORE THAN JUST FREAKS... THEY ARE THE NEXT EVOLUTIONARY STEP!
TRUE HYBRIDS... NOT A HALF-MAN/HALF A BEING WITH THE SUM OF BOTH CELL DONORS. TWICE THE SPEED, TWICE THE POWER... TWICE THE INTELLIGENCE.

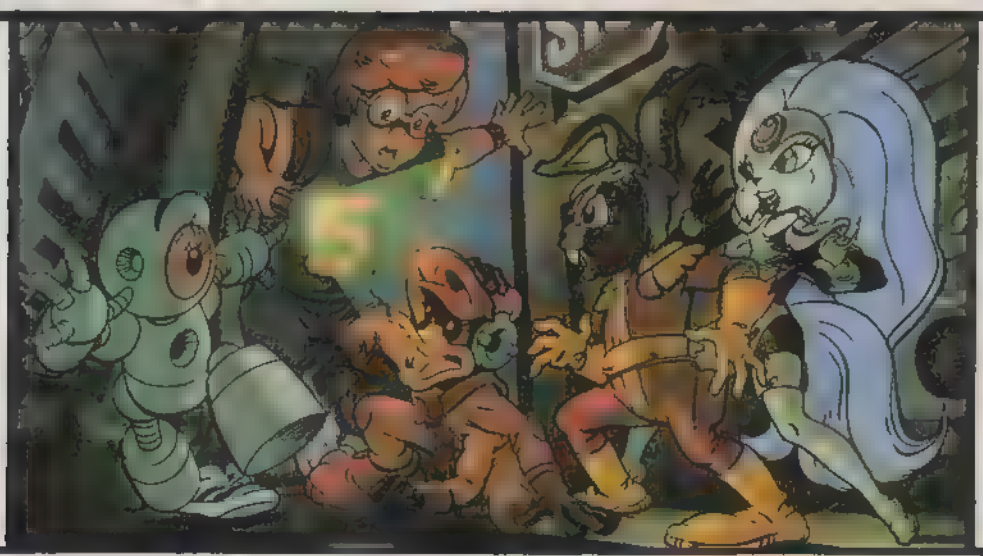
LOOK INTO MY EYES, DEVILSPAWN-
IS THIS NOT THE FUTURE THAT WILL BE?
YES!
AND IT'S A FUTURE YOU SHALL NEVER HAVE... DEMON!
MMM MHUARG!
NEVER!
ANCESTORS!
THIS ISN'T... POSSIBLE!
HE'S HEADED FOR THE SKYLIGHT!
STOP HIM!!


DON'T WORRY, BOSS-HE AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE!
PERMISSION TO TERMINATE.
NEGATIVE!
I NEED HIM ALIVE!
ROGER THAT!
YOU KNOW THE DRILL, BOYS!
ENERGY ON HALF. IONIZE HIS ORGANS.
ARRRG!
WE GOT HIM- BUT HE'S NOT GOING DOWN!
HE'S HEADED DEEPER INTO THE COMPLEX.
SEAL OFF SECTOR SEVEN AND GET AFTER HIM!!

BLAST HIS EYES!
HOW DID HE ESCAPE?!
I MADE SURE THE POWER LEVELS WERE HIGH ENOUGH TO CONTAIN HIM.
NO MATTER - HE'LL BE BACK. THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THIS COMPLEX.
AS THE DOOR SLIDES CLOSED DORIAN TAKES HIMSELF OUT OF CLOSE PROXIMITY TO DEVILSPAWN'S DESTROYED RESTRAINTS.
AS HE DOES AN IMAGE FLICKERS...
AND BECOMES REAL.
GASP!
PRAISE THE SUN OF ALDOR! IF HE HAD STAYED ANY LONGER... I WOULD HAVE COLLAPSED.
BARELY CONSCIOUS, DEVILSPAWN FINALLY RELAXES HIS SPECIAL ABILITY... THE POWER OF "ENTERING". THE ABILITY TO ENTER MINDS AND MANIPULATE WHAT THEY SEE AND FEEL.
HE "ENTERED" THE MINDS OF EVERY PERSON IN THE ROOM AND MADE THEM SEE HIS ESCAPE... BUT THE COST IN VITALITY AND STRENGTH IS PRODIGIOUS.
IT WILL TAKE TIME TO REGAIN HIS ENERGY... TIME HE DOESN'T HAVE.

UNHHHH-AH!
WITH ALL THAT RANDOM BLASTING, ENERGY LEVELS ARE DOWN IN THIS SECTION, IF I CAN JUST... UH... I' OUT...
HA! I'M JUST ACROSS A BODY OF WATER FROM NEW YORK.
I WAS CERTAIN I WAS MUCH FARTHER AWAY.
NEXT STOP-FIND THE HYBRIDS.
AND STOP THE GREATEST THREAT TO THIS PLANET THAT ITS DENIZENS COULD EVER CONCIEVE.
UNSEEN BY ALL SAVE ONE DEVILSPAWN CATCHES THE UPDRAFTS AND SLOWLY WINGS HIS WAY TOWARD THE GLITTERING LIGHTS OF MANHATTAN.
PERHAPS THIS BEAUTIFUL SHE-BAT REALIZES THAT DEVILSPAWN IS THE LINCHPIN OF A GREAT EVENT THAT IS FAST APPROACHING.
PERHAPS... SHE IS TESTING THE METTLE OF A FUTURE ADVERSARY.
PERHAPS...
...SHE IS SIMPLY CURIOUS.

THE COMIC IS ABOUT TO BECOME BUCKY O'HARE THE TV SHOW



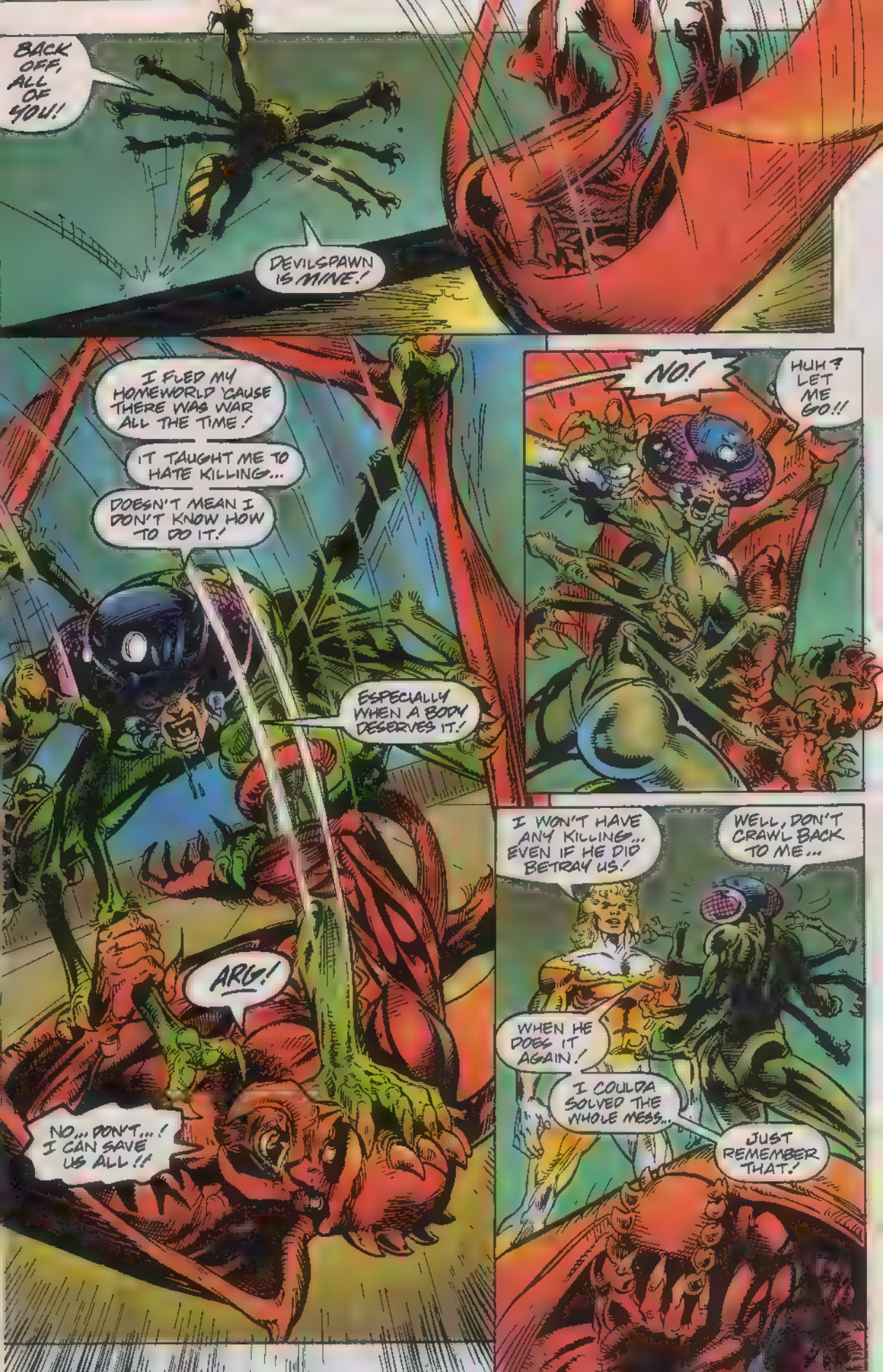
AND BUCKY O'HARE THE TOYS FROM HASBRO

SHE, AND THE PEOPLE ON HER HOMEWORLD OF HIVE WORSHIP THE INSECT FORM AS PERFECT... THE HIVE, THE ULTIMATE FORM OF SOCIETY.
SHE HAS CHOSEN A NAME THAT MIMICS HER CULTURE AND TEMPERMENT.
MITE
SHE IS BUT ONE OF THE SEVEN KNOWN HYBRIDS TO ESCAPE THEIR HOSTILE HOMEWORLDS AND COME TO AN ADOPTIVE EARTH.
MOST OF THE OTHERS ARE STRIVING TO FIT IN... TO LOOK AND ACT AS CLOSE TO HUMANS AS POSSIBLE. BUT NOT MITE!
IT'S NOT THAT SHE CAN'T TAKE OFF HER INSECTOID BODY ARMOR... SHE SIMPLY DOESN'T WANT TO!!

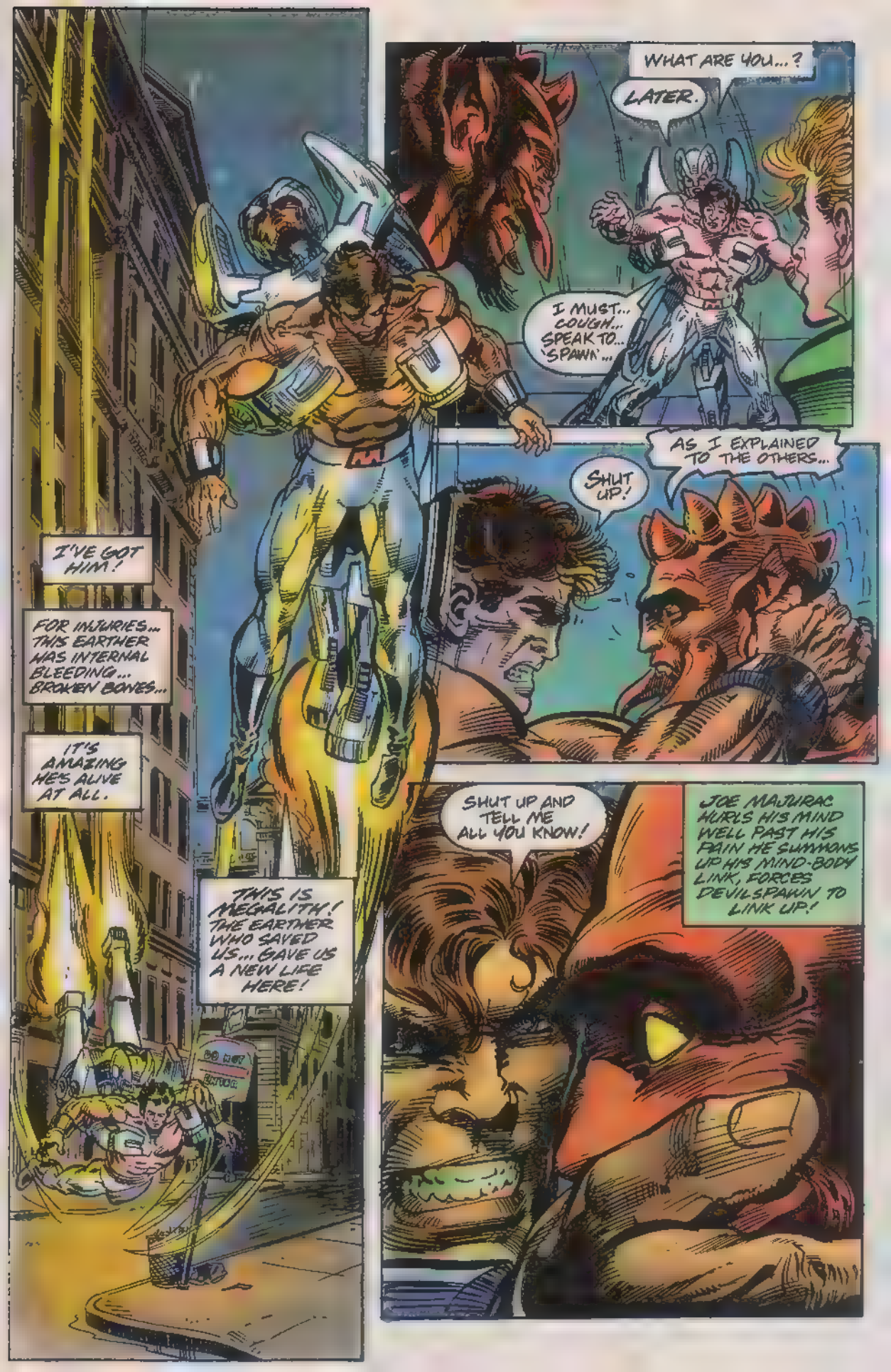
MITE!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU'RE LATE!
YOU DON'T OWN ME, HIGHPERION!
I DO AS I PLEASE... ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL!
NOT LIKE THE REST OF YOU HYBRIDS... FOLLOWING HIGHPERION LIKE A BUNCH OF TRAINED FLEAS!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! WE TOOK A VOTE ON WHETHER TO STAY ON EARTH OR NOT. YOU LOST. LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.
I LOST AS WELL. I STILL THINK WE'RE ACTING LIKE FOOLS...
HIDING IN THE SHADOWS LIKE THIS!
AND INCUR THE WRATH OF THE ENTIRE PLANET AGAIN? AS WE DID WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED?
GYMCRACK, FOR ONE, THINKS NOT.
WE ARE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY SUPERIOR TO THESE HUMANS.
OUR BEST PLAN IS TO BLEND IN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE... TRY AND FIT IN.
WHY CAN'T WE ESTABLISH OUR OWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE?!
EARTH IS OUR HOME NOW.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE A PLANET TO CALL HOME IF YOU DON'T REACT QUICKLY, HYBRIDS!!
HUH?
YOU!?!

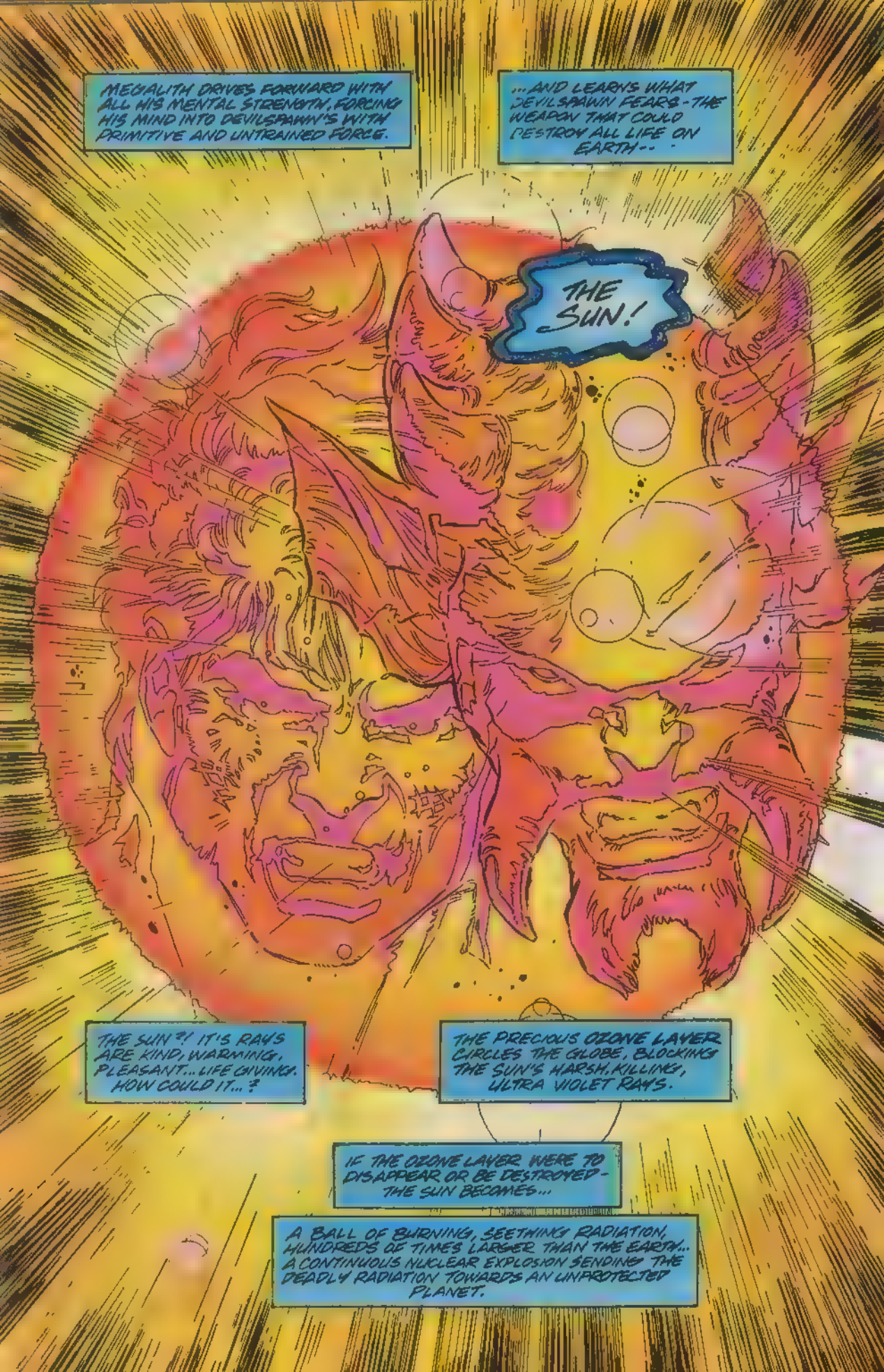
IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY ON EARTH AND CONTINUE TO DO NOTHING!...
...YOU WILL BE WITNESSES TO IT'S DESTRUCTION!!
S.H.A.R.D.
DEVILSPAWN ! YOU TRAITOR!
YOU SET US UP! LET US TAKE THE FALL FOR YOUR PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE EARTH!
I WARNED YOU THE NEXT TIME WE MET-
I'D CARVE OUT YOUR HEART--?!
I'M AM NOT YOUR ENEMY, MITE.
OH YEAH?!
COULDA FOOLED ME!
I GUESS I JUST IMAGINED YOU TRICKING MEGALITH INTO TRYING TO KILL US!?

MITE AND HORROR REALLY WANT BLOOD!..
...BUT I SUSPECT THAT THERE ARE ANSWERS DEVILSPAWN CAN PROVIDE US WITH.
IMPORTANT ANSWERS.
WAVES OF CONCENTRATED AIR PRESSURE SHOOT OUT OF CYCLONES VERY BEING. AN AIR DANCER FROM MAGNOR HE IS ABLE TO MENTALLY CONTROL WEATHER...
HUARG!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT.
I THOUGHT I WAS DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR US ALL!
YOU..
-WERE-
-WRONG!

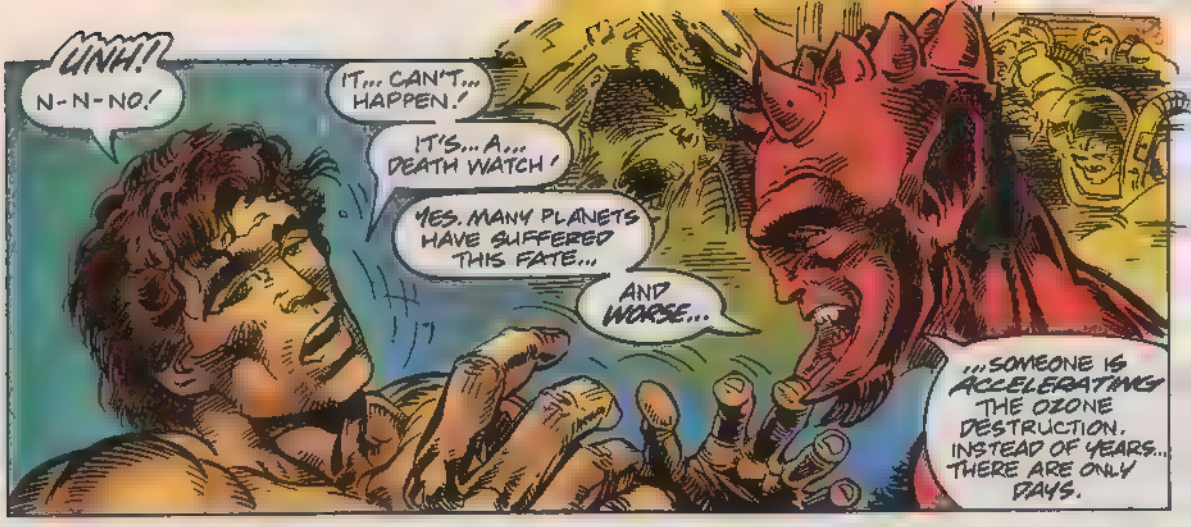

BACK OFF, ALL OF YOU!
DEVILSPAWN IS MINE!
I FLED MY HOMEWORLD 'CAUSE THERE WAS WAR ALL THE TIME!
IT TAUGHT ME TO HATE KILLING...
DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT!
ESPECIALLY WHEN A BODY DESERVES IT!
ARG!
NO... DON'T...! I CAN SAVE US ALL!!
NO!
HUH? LET ME GO!!
I WON'T HAVE ANY KILLING... EVEN IF HE DID BETRAY US!
WELL, DON'T CRAWL BACK TO ME...
WHEN HE DOES IT AGAIN!
I COULDA SOLVED THE WHOLE MESS...
JUST REMEMBER THAT!

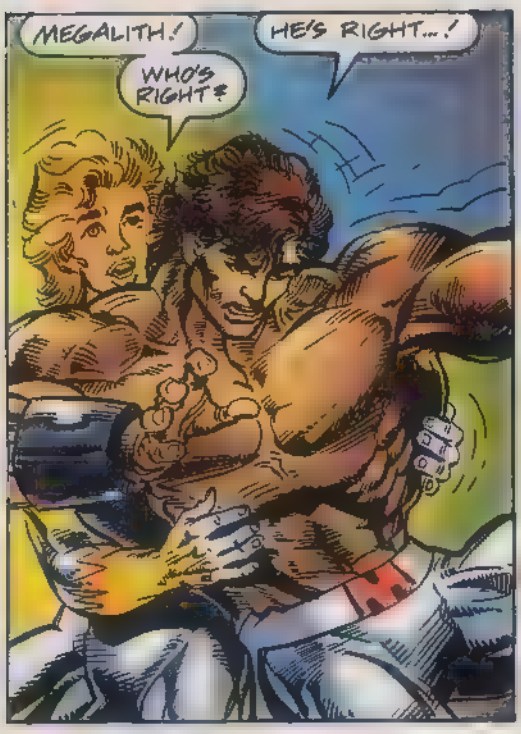
IT WOULD APPEAR YOU HAVE A BRIEF REPRIEVE, DEVILSPAWN.
I SUGGEST YOU EXPLAIN YOUR COMMENT ABOUT SAVING THIS PLANET...
...BEFORE MITE DECIDES TO TAKE ANOTHER WHACK AT YOU.
THANK YOU, SPANNG TING.
LIAR! WHAT A CROCK OF...!
NO! I SWEAR IT'S ALL TRUE!
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
BEFORE THE YEAR 2000... POSSIBLY SOONER...
...ALL LIFE ON EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED!!
I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY ESCAPED THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DOMINATION OF THE MOST POWERFUL HYBRID OF ALL.
IT WAS ALL HIS PLAN-NOT MINE.
HE CAUSED YOUR VIOLENT AND DESTRUCTIVE ARRIVAL ON EARTH.
I WAS JUST A PAWN AND HE PUNISHED ME FOR FAILING.
PLEASE...
LISTEN TO HIM... HEAR HIM...
...OUT...
SPANNG! CAN YOU CATCH HIM?
AFFIRMATIVE, HIGHPERION.!


WHAT ARE YOU...?
LATER.
I MUST... COUGH... SPEAK TO... 'SPAWN'...
AS I EXPLAINED TO THE OTHERS...
SHUT UP!
I'VE GOT HIM!
FOR INJURIES... THIS EARTHER HAS INTERNAL BLEEDING... BROKEN BONES...
IT'S AMAZING HE'S ALIVE AT ALL.
THIS IS MEGALITH! THE EARTHER WHO SAVED US... GAVE US A NEW LIFE HERE!
SHUT UP AND TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW!
JOE MAJURAC HURLS HIS MIND WELL PAST HIS PAIN HE SUMMONS UP HIS MIND-BODY LINK, FORCES DEVILSPAWN TO LINK UP!


MEGALITH DRIVES FORWARD WITH ALL HIS MENTAL STRENGTH, FORCING HIS MIND INTO DEVILSPAWN'S WITH PRIMITIVE AND UNTRAINED FORCE.
...AND LEARNS WHAT DEVILSPAWN FEARS - THE WEAPON THAT COULD DESTROY ALL LIFE ON EARTH...
THE SUN!
THE SUN?! IT'S RAYS ARE KIND, WARMING, PLEASANT... LIFE GIVING. HOW COULD IT...?
THE PRECIOUS OZONE LAYER CIRCLES THE GLOBE, BLOCKING THE SUN'S HARSH, KILLING, ULTRA VIOLET RAYS.
IF THE OZONE LAYER WERE TO DISAPPEAR OR BE DESTROYED - THE SUN BECOMES...
A BALL OF BURNING, SEETHING RADIATION, HUNDREDS OF TIMES LARGER THAN THE EARTH... A CONTINUOUS NUCLEAR EXPLOSION SENDING THE DEADLY RADIATION TOWARDS AN UNPROTECTED PLANET.

THIS -
IS THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE OZONE.
PEOPLE'S SKIN WOULD BE PRACTICALLY SEARED OFF THEIR BONES...
CANCEROUS SORES WOULD FORM IN HOURS. RADIATION WOULD BURN EYES RIGHT OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS.
ALL PLANT, ANIMAL AND HUMAN LIFE WOULD BE EXTERMINATED IN A MATTER OF WEEKS.
LEAVING THE EARTH A PERFECT BREEDING GROUND FOR UNDERGROUND CREATURES WHOSE SKIN IS UNAFFECTED BY THE BURNING RADIATION.
TITANS-
-DARROWS.
AND A THOUSAND OTHER MYSTERIOUS AND DEMONIC RACES WILL UNITE AND EMERGE ON THE SURFACE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MILLION YEARS.
THE EARTH, AS JOE MAJURAC KNOWS IT, WOULD DIE!

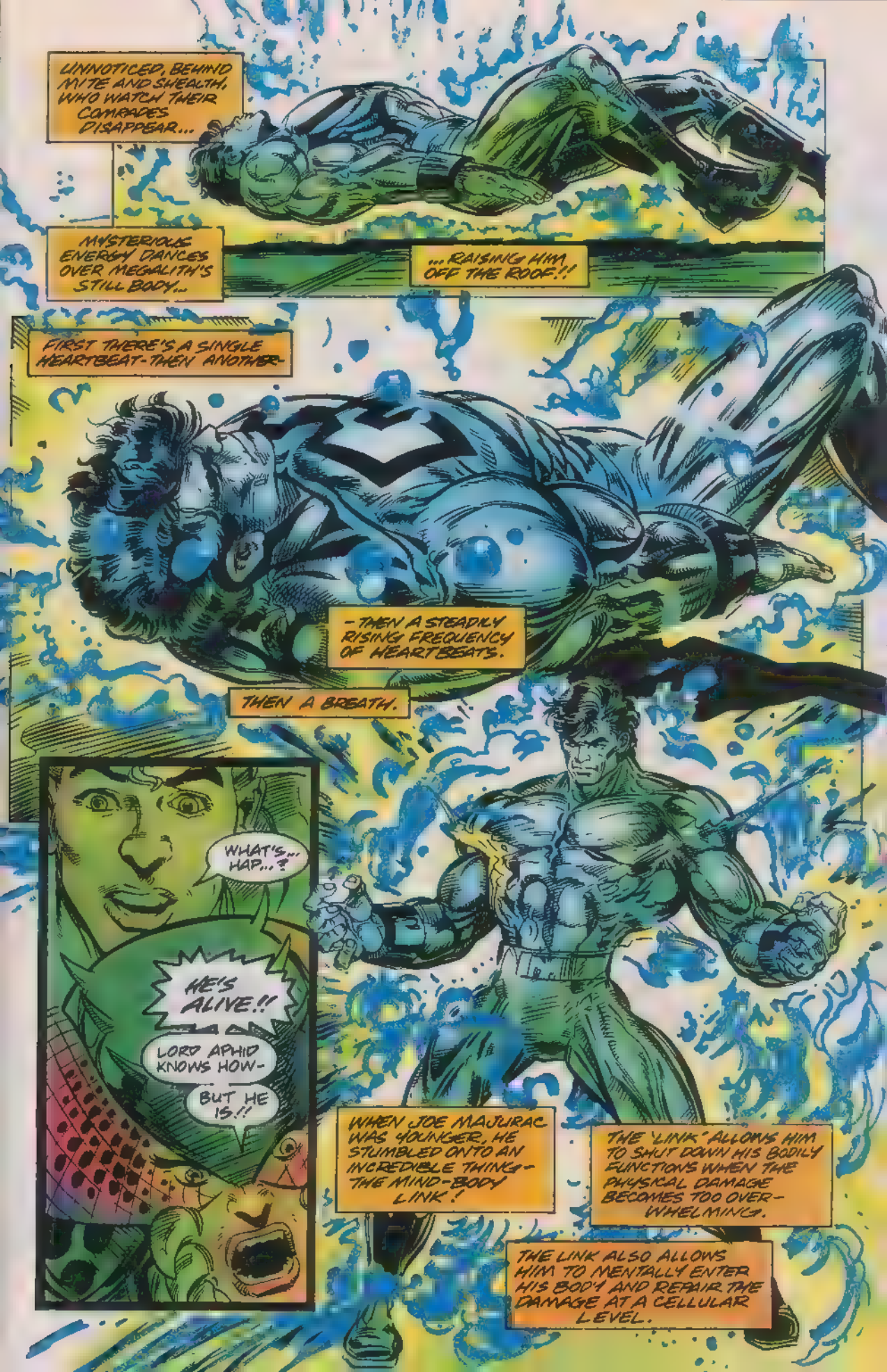

UNH!
N-N-NO!
IT... CAN'T... HAPPEN!
IT'S... A... DEATH WATCH!
YES. MANY PLANETS HAVE SUFFERED THIS FATE...
AND WORSE...
...SOMEONE IS ACCELERATING THE OZONE DESTRUCTION. INSTEAD OF YEARS... THERE ARE ONLY DAYS.


MEGALITH!
WHO'S RIGHT?
HE'S RIGHT...!

DEVILSPAWN... YOU'VE GOT... TO... COUGH... STOP IT.
THE EARTH... IN DANGER.
GO WITH... HIM... HELP HIM... SAVE THE PLANET.
I HELPED... YOU... NOW SAVE... MY... PLANET...
.....
MEGALITH! JOE MAJURAC!

HE'S DEAD!!

A STUNNED SILENCE...
EIGHT TEENAGERS REACT IN THEIR OWN WAYS TO THE DEATH OF THE ONE EARTH MAN WHO BELIEVED IN THEM.
HE... GAVE HIS LIFE TO BRING THIS INFORMATION TO US. I SAY WE GO WITH DEVILSPAWN.
NO WAY!
SPAWN SCAMMED MEG WITH HIS MIND-TRICKS! LIKE HE DID TO US BEFORE!
I AGREE WITH MITE. THIS IS ALL VERY SUSPECT.
FINE!
WE DON'T NEED YOU TWO!! MEGALITH DIED TELLING US TO TRUST DEVILSPAWN! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME!
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US WHO ARE LOYAL TO JOE MAJURAC'S MEMORY!
WE WILL AVENGE HIS DEATH!
... BUT... WHO WILL HOLD BACK...
DEATHWATCH 2000


UNNOTICED, BEHIND MYTE AND SHEALTH, WHO WATCH THEIR COMRADES DISAPPEAR...
MYSTERIOUS ENERGY DANCES OVER MEGALITH'S STILL BODY...
...RAISING HIM OFF THE ROOF!!
FIRST THERE'S A SINGLE HEARTBEAT-THEN ANOTHER-
-THEN A STEADILY RISING FREQUENCY OF HEARTBEATS.
THEN A BREATH.
WHAT'S... HAP...?
HE'S ALIVE!!
LORD APHID KNOWS HOW-
BUT HE IS!!
WHEN JOE MAJURAC WAS YOUNGER, HE STUMBLED ONTO AN INCREDIBLE THING- THE MIND-BODY LINK!
THE 'LINK' ALLOWS HIM TO SHUT DOWN HIS BODILY FUNCTIONS WHEN THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE BECOMES TOO OVER-WHELMING.
THE LINK ALSO ALLOWS HIM TO MENTALLY ENTER HIS BODY AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE AT A CELLULAR LEVEL.

YOU'RE ALIVE?!?
BUT...
ONLY...NOT DEAD!.....
MY BODY... IS STILL... REPAIRING ITSELF... I... WENT INTO COMA... TO FOCUS MY... LINK.
I'LL... BE FINE SOON.
MITE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT DEVILSPAWN...
...BUT THE PEOPLE WHO DID THIS TO ME...
...ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE OZONE LAYER... THEY PLAN TO BRING OUR PLANET TO IT'S DEATH.
DEVILSPAWN CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS. HE SEEMS TO... "SEE" INTO THE FUTURE SOMEHOW.
TOO MANY THINGS ARE POINTING TO A DETERMINED ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE OZONE.
I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE PLAN YET. BUT THOSE HELLBENDERS NEED A PROTOTYPE I OWN. THEY'LL COME BACK-AND I'LL BE READY THIS TIME.
I'VE SEEN ENTIRE PLANETS KILLED BY ULTRA VIOLET RADIATION. IT SCARRED ME FOR LIFE.
MY POWER STANDS WITH YOU!
IF IT'S A SCRAP, COUNT MITE IN!
GOOD 'CAUSE THIS FIGHT'S GONNA BE
BAAAAD!!!

Story: **Peter Stone** Pencils **Sal Velluto** Inks: **Rudy Nebres**
Colors: **Paul Mounts** Letters: **Jade Moede**

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BURN! BURN!
I WILL MELT YOUR METALS TO PLASMA!
WATCH OUT HELLFIRE! YOUR STARTING TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!
PLEASURE FOR YOU VOID, BUT WORK FOR THE REST OF US.
LIGHTEN UP LEPER!
LET LOOSE WITH YOUR POWERS. REVEL IN EXERCISE OF YOUR INHUMAN ABILITIES!

SORRY TO BE THE HARSH VOICE OF REALITY FRIENDS...
BUT DO ME A FAVOR AND CONCENTRATE ON OUR MISSION, PLEASE?
SURPRISE BOYS, THERE ISN'T A FORCE ON THIS PLANET THAT CAN CUT THROUGH MY CALLOUSES...
IT TICKLES... HAR HAR HAR!
YOU'RE BEING FAR TOO NICE, VOID...
THESE BOYS HAVE ALL SORTS OF... NASTY... THOUGHTS INSIDE THEIR HEADS.
I CAN FEEL ALL OF THEM. MMMMMM...
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT MAKING THEM COME TRUE.

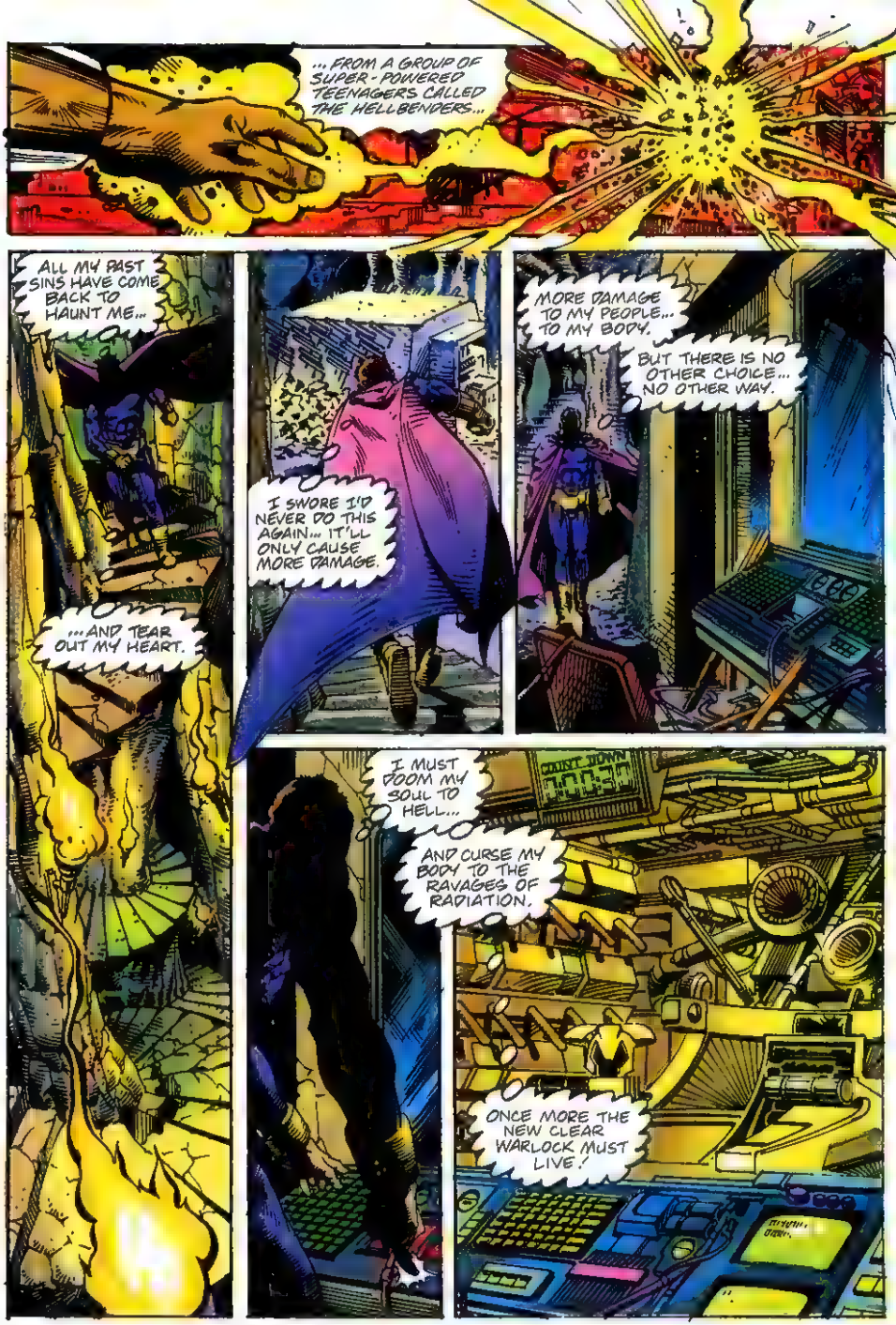
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE SOLDIERS ARE TRANSPORTED ONE HUNDRED LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA.
THEY FEEL THEIR BODIES BEING CRUSHED BY THE PRESSURE...
...OF BILLIONS OF TONS OF OCEAN WATER.
EVERY SINGLE IOTA OF PAIN AND TERROR FLOWS OUT INTO THE HANDS OF THE SENSUAL LEATHER CLAD WOMAN!
AHHH! THEIR TERROR PRACTICALLY OVERWHELMS ME...
THE RAW PLEASURE GETS BETTER EVERY TIME I USE IT.
SHIPS OFFICERS LAUNCH A DRONE JET IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HELP.
BUT HELLFIRE STRETCHES OUT WITH THE FIRE THAT BURNS THROUGH HIM.
YESS... TAKE THEM, MY DEAR!
MY DEAR FIRE...
BURN THEM!
BURN!
THIS PLAN IS TOO DANGEROUS... TAKING OVEN AN ENTIRE AIRCRAFT CARRIER. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MEN ABOARD...
EVEN WE CAN'T CONTROL ALL OF THEM AT ONE TIME.
LEPER "MAKES" A GUN FROM HIS LIFE-GIVING ARMOR.

BUT I SUPPOSE I MUST UPHOLD MY PART BEFORE THIS DISEASE TAKES ME COMPLETELY.
RADIO ANTENNA DESTROYED... THIS SHIP'S NOW CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
ENSTEN! WHAT IN THE NAME OF NIMITZ IS GOING ON?!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, CAPTAIN! FIVE. CREATURES ARE DESTROYING THE FLIGHT DECK!
CREATURES?!
AH, CAPTAIN... SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING. I SEE YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HAD YOUR COFFEE YET.
WELL, I'D JOIN YOU, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO AND SO LITTLE TIME TO DO IT IN.
AND SO YOU DON'T THINK I'M A COMPLETE GENTLEMAN.
HERE'S JUST A SMALL TOKEN OF MY... SINCERITY.
THE GRACEFUL YOUNG MAN NAMED MELLHEART USES BUT A TINY PORTION OF HIS MAGICAL POWERS.
NOW CAPTAIN, SHALL WE DISCUSS THE TERMS OF YOUR SURRENDER?

TWO HOURS LATER, THE CABLE NEWS PROGRAM RECEIVES A PRE-TAPED ANNOUNCEMENT... FEATURING A VERY POLITE, CALM "CREATURE" WHO CALLS HIMSELF HELLHEART...
MINER
TERRORIST ATTACK
...CLAIMING TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THE "THUNDERBOLT" AND THAT HE AND ASSOCIATES ARE GOING TO SAIL IT TO THE MIDDLE EAST.
"WE'RE GOING TO FINISH THE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST... ANY WAY WE HAVE TO", HE CLAIMED.
WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL UNREST, SUCH A BOLD TERRORIST ACTION COULD VERY WELL START ANOTHER WAR BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL...
YOU GET IT, GUYS? THAT'S THE START OF WORLD WAR THREE!
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST!
I'M NOT GONNA STAND BY WHILE SOME LUNATIC DESTROYS THE WORLD...
...WITH ONE OF AMERICA'S OWN AIRCRAFT CARRIERS!
WE'RE GONNA TAKE THESE GUYS DOWN!

US?.. WE?
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE, WE? DON'T YOU HAVE LIKE HOMEWORK? THOSE GUYS ARE...
WAIT... WAIT.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS
NEWS
THIS ISN'T A BUNCH OF PUNKS IN A LOCAL MUSEUM! THIS IS... INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM... POLITICS.
YEAH, SO?!
SO? SO WE COULD STEP INTO A SITUATION THAT'LL BLOW UP IN OUR FACES!
WE COULD CAUSE A WAR INSTEAD OF PREVENTONE! THIS IS THE BIG TIME... THE REAL WORLD, JACK.
HEY! EXCUSE ME... I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS TALKING TO THE WENNIE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA!
WE CAN DO THIS!
I AGREE WITH ARMOR. WITH THE POWERS IN THIS ROOM, WE COULD TAKE DOWN ANY EARTHERS!
IF THIS PLANET IS TO BE MY MAIN FRAME...
I SAY WE STAND ON THE SIDE OF JUST'ICE.
WAIT A MINUTE YOU TWO. WE'RE KIDS... NOT COPS.
THEY'RE GONNA SEND IN THE NAVY AND THE MARINES!...
WE'D JUST BE IN THE WAY! THE GOOD GUYS'LL SHOOT US!
HEY STUFFIT! THEY GOT AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER THEY CAN FIGHT OFF ANY MILITARY ATTACK! BUT THE GOOD GUYS WON'T ATTACK, THEY'LL KILL THEIR OWN MEN!
YOU'RE JUST TOO BLOODY AFRAID TO ROCK THE BOAT... WELL,THAT'S WHAT I DO BEST!
AND THE BOTTOM LINE IS... WE CAN DO THE JOB BEST!

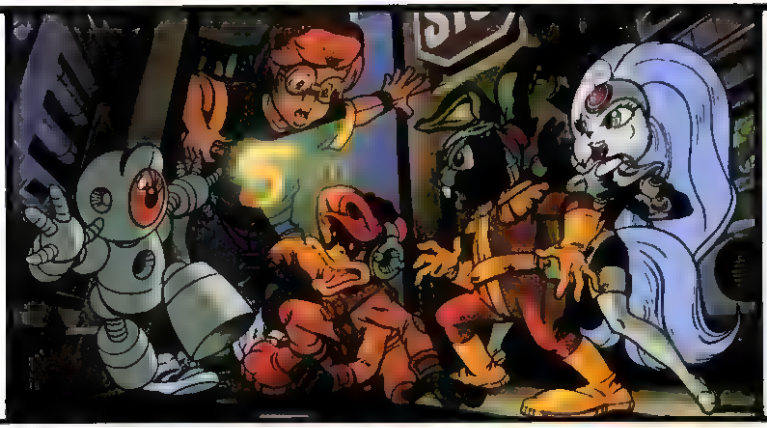
BLAST IT, JACQUES... WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GIVE ME A HARD TIME!?
IN SPACE THE NAME ARMOR MEANS THE BEST!
BILLIONS OF BEINGS KNOW MY NAME... RESPECT ME...
FEAR ME!
THEN I COME BACK TO EARTH...
...AND WHAT DO I GET? NOTHING! ZERO RESPECT! I EVEN HAVE TO GO TO FLAMIN' HIGH SCHOOL!
ELSEWHERE A STRANGELY FAMILIAR FIGURE BROODS IN WHAT WAS ONCE A CHURCH, BUT NOT OF ANY RELIGION KNOWN OUTSIDE THE SMALL TOWN ENCIRCLING THE BUILDING
AS THE "NEW CLEAR WARLOCK", HE CONTROLLED INCREDIBLE MAGIC, HAD SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE WORSHIP HIM AS A GOD... THEN JOE MAJURAC CONVINCED HIM TO QUIT.
BUT IT'S JUST AS HARD TO GO COLD-TURKEY FROM MAGIC AS IT IS FROM COCAINE OR HEROIN.
COLD SWEATS, SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, ANGER, FRUSTRATION.
HE'S BEEN DOING PRETTY WELL... UNTIL TONIGHT.
11


... FROM A GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED TEENAGERS CALLED THE HELLBENDERS...
ALL MY PAST SINS HAVE COME BACK TO HAUNT ME...
...AND TEAR OUT MY HEART.
I SWORE I'D NEVER DO THIS AGAIN... IT'LL ONLY CAUSE MORE DAMAGE.
MORE DAMAGE TO MY PEOPLE... TO MY BODY.
BUT THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE... NO OTHER WAY.
I MUST DOOM MY SOUL TO HELL...
AND CURSE MY BODY TO THE RAVAGES OF RADIATION.
ONCE MORE THE NEW CLEAR WARLOCK MUST LIVE!

COUNTDOWN 0:00:10
COUNTDOWN 0:00:05
I'M SORRY, JOE MAJURAC... I AM NOT THE MAN YOU THOUGHT I COULD HAVE BEEN.
AAAAAAAARRRRRR
COUNTDOWN 0:00:01
COUNTDOWN 0:00:00
THOOM

ARMOR!
MY NAME IS JACK. I WISH YOU'D USE IT ONCE IN A WHILE.
YOU'RE IN COSTUME.
NAME'S NO DIFFERENT.
JACK. I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW...
...IF YOU GO AFTER THESE FLATSCANS ON THAT SHIP...
I'M WITH YOU
WELL, IT AIN'T SISTERLY LOVE, BUT I'LL TAKE IT FOR NOW.
THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT.
AT LEAST SOMEONE CARES AROUND HERE.
AARG
FLAMIN' ROCK N ROLL!
IT'S THE WARLOCK!!

THE COMIC IS ABOUT TO BECOME BUCKY O'HARE THE TV SHOW



AND BUCKY O'HARE THE TOYS FROM HASBRO

ARMOR!
WATCH OUT FOR THIS GUY, SCARLET!
HE'S BAD NEWS!
BUT I'VE TAKEN HIM DOWN BEFORE!
IT'S THE NEW CLEAR WARLOCK! SHOULD I BLAST HIM?!
NO JACQUES! LET ME TALK TO HIM FIRST!
NO REASON!? WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF IT, BOY!?!
HORACE! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?! YOU PROMISED.. AND THERE'S NO REASON...
UGH!
OOOFF!

IF YER LOOKIN' FOR A REASON TO FIGHT, WARLOCK--
I'VE GOT A PAIR OF GOOD REASONS RIGHT HERE IN MY FISTS!
ARG!
CRASH
THUD

ARE YOU CRAZY WARLOCK!?!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT USING MAGIC JUST MAKES YOUR RADIATION POISONING WORSE?!
IT'LL KILL YA, YOU STUPID JERK!
AN' WHAT ABOUT YOUR FOLLOWERS?! YOU WANNA KILL THEM TOO?! ANSWER ME, YOU LYIN' SACK OF--
WHY?! AN' YOUR ANSWER BETTER BE SLAMMIN'!
NO-GASP-- CHOICE-- CHOKE-- HAD TO!
THOSE TERRORISTS.
WE'RE TAKIN' A GAMBLE WITH YOU, WARLOCK. BEST JUSTIFY MY LENIENCY... AN' SPILL YER GUTS.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER... I TRULY BELIEVED MY COURSE OF ACTION TO BE JUSTIFIED.
TAKE A TOWN FROM THE BACKWOODS OF SOME FORGOTTEN STATE AND MAKE THE IGNORANT DUPES MY LOYAL FOLLOWERS...
...MY SLAVES...
...THE HELLBENDERS... ONE OF THEM IS MY-- SON!
AS YOU MUST REMEMBER... I CONTROLLED THEM WITH RELIGION. THEY WORSHIPPED ME LIKE A GOD IT SEEMED LOGICAL ... JUSTIFIED.
BUT I WAS WRONG. THE NUCLEAR REACTOR I SELFISHLY BUILT TO SAVE MY LIFE... DOOMED MY PEOPLE TO HORRIBLE MUTATIONS... RADIATION SICKNESS. *
AND NOW I MAY HAVE TO
KILL HIM!
* SEE REVENGERS #4 & #5-NEAL.

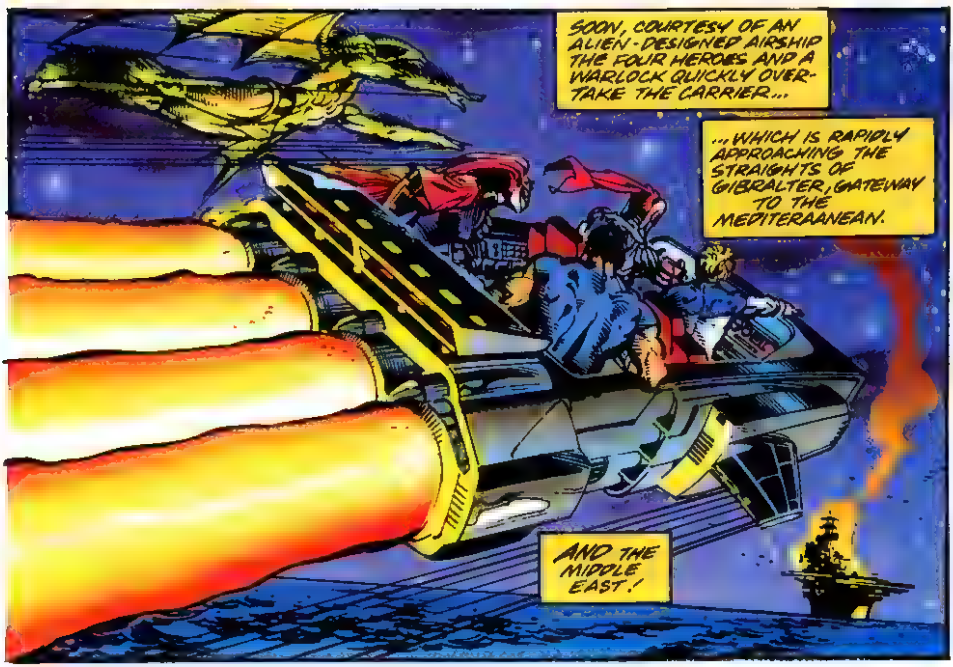
.. AND IN SOME CASES... DEATH. I FELT RESPONSIBLE, KNOWING I CAUSED HIS PARENTS DEATHS.
BUT I WAS UNABLE TO COMFORT THE BOY... I WAS HIS DIETY HUMAN EMOTION WAS BENEATH ME.
BUT HE FOUND FORCING HIMSELF ON ME. I WAS ADOPTED AS HIS HOLY FATHER...
I TOOK HIM IN-- WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?
I FOUND AN EAGER INTELLIGENT BOY WHO ABSORBED INFORMATION. AT A GENIUS LEVEL.
I TAUGHT HIM TO READ, TO WRITE AND LATER...
MAGIC.
I TAUGHT HIM ALL I KNEW, BECOMING NOT ONLY A SON... BUT MY DESCIPLE.
IN A FEW MONTHS, HE RIVALED MY OWN ABILITIES... SHOWING AMAZING POTENTIAL.
INSTEAD OF JEALOUSY, I FOUGHT A GROWING PRIDE.
HE BECAME A CLEANER, PURER VISION OF MYSELF.

BUT I WAS A FOOL TO THINK MY DARK METHODS WOULDN'T PUNISH ME...
AND WORSE...
MY SON.
MONTHS OF CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MY MAKESHIFT, UNSAFE REACTOR HAD POISONED THE BOY, BURNING HIM ON THE INSIDE WHERE I COULDN'T SEE IT...
...OR PREVENT IT!
MY MAGIC TAUGHT HIM TO HIDE THE PAIN UNTIL IT WAS FAR TOO LATE...
...UNTIL THE RADIATION ATTACKED A SINGLE WEAK POINT--HIS HEART!
TO MY UTTER HORROR...
THE RADIATION HAD EATEN HIS HEART AWAY COMPLETELY!
WITH A HEAVY HEART, I TOOK HIM TO OUR..."HOME"... TO EITHER SAVE HIM...
...OR BURY HIM.
ONLY A DESPERATE SPELL SAVED HIS LIFE--
BUT IT WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE AT BEST.

A LONG NIGHT DESPERATELY POURING THROUGH MY MAGIC TOMES PRODUCED A SINGLE CHANCE--AN ANCIENT LIFE-GIVING PROCESS.
USING A PORTION OF MY OWN LIFE-ESSENCE, I CREATED A GEM TO REPLACE HIS HEART.
BUT TO POWER THE GEM, I HAD TO USE RADIATION.
THE MAGIC GEM KEPT HIM ALIVE, BUT RADIATION POWERED THE MAGIC... THE SAME RADIATION THAT CAUSED THE DISEASE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
A DOUBLE CURSE--LIKE MYSELF.
BUT MY SON WASN'T THE ONLY VICTIM. FOUR OTHERS APPEARED...
...EACH ONE SLOWLY DYING DUE TO THE RADIATION.
WHAT COULD I DO? THEY WERE... LOYAL TO ME. I... HAD NO... OTHER CHOICE.
TO SAVE THEM FROM THE RADIATION, I USED MAGIC.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LET THEM DIE.

FOR A TIME, WE WERE A FAMILY. THEIR POWERS BLOSSOMED QUICKLY AND POWERFULLY UNDER MY WATCHFUL EYE... AND THE ENTHUSIASTIC "COMBAT" THEY ENGAGED IN.
CLOSE FRIENDS BEFORE, NOW THEY WERE FIVE OUTCASTS LINKED TOGETHER BY THEIR DISEASES.
BUT THEY WERE YOUNG... AND SOON BECAME BORED OF THE SMALL TOWN. READING HAD TOLD THEM OF THE FANTASTIC WORLD OUT THERE.
SO WHEN HE FOUND US... SOMEHOW...
...AND MADE AN OFFER NOT ONLY TO CURE THEM, BUT GIVE THEM A FUTURE IN THE WORLD...
...THEY SCARCELY LOOKED BACK.
ON THAT DAY, MY HEART SHATTERED... BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS FOR THE BEST.
MY SON MIGHT LIVE AS A NORMAL BOY

NOW THEY HAVE BECOME INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS! MY CHILDREN--
THEY MUST BE STOPPED!
I SET THIS NIGHTMARE IN MOTION AND I WILL SET IT RIGHT!
WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR HELP!
HEY, I DON'T NEED ANYMORE CONVINCING SCARLET AN' I WILL HELP.
BUT IN THE FUTURE-- ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS ASK.
NOT CRASH THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT.
I APOLOGIZE, BUT SOMETIMES MY TRANSFORMATION DRIVES ME MAD... FOR A TIME.
I DON'T LIKE YOU USING MAGIC, HORACE...
...BUT WE'LL DO IT, RIGHT JOE?


SOON, COURTESY OF AN ALIEN-DESIGNED AIRSHIP THE FOUR HEROES AND A WARLOCK QUICKLY OVER-TAKE THE CARRIER...
...WHICH IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE STRAIGHTS OF GIBRALTER, GATEWAY TO THE MEDITERAANEAN.
AND THE MIDDLE EAST.!

EXCELLENT--!
A CHALLENGE AT LAST
A PITIFUL ASSAULT FORCE FROM ONE OF THE MANY NATIONS WE'RE THREATENING NO DOUBT.
A PITY THEY COULDN'T KNOW THAT LEPER HAS FIGURED OUT THE RADAR SYSTEM AND I'VE SEEN THEM COMING FOR MILES.
WAIT-- WHO'S THAT?!
MY FATHER?!
YOU WOULD ATTACK ME?! BETRAYER!!
WITH SOME NEW COLLECTION OF MUTATED CHILDREN.'
THEY- DIE- FIRST!!

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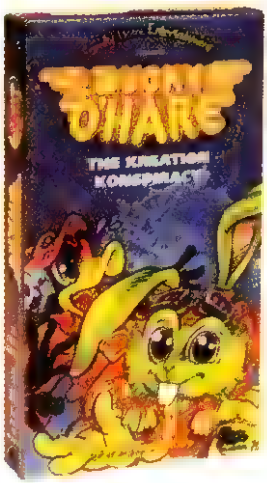

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LIVE HOME VIDEO

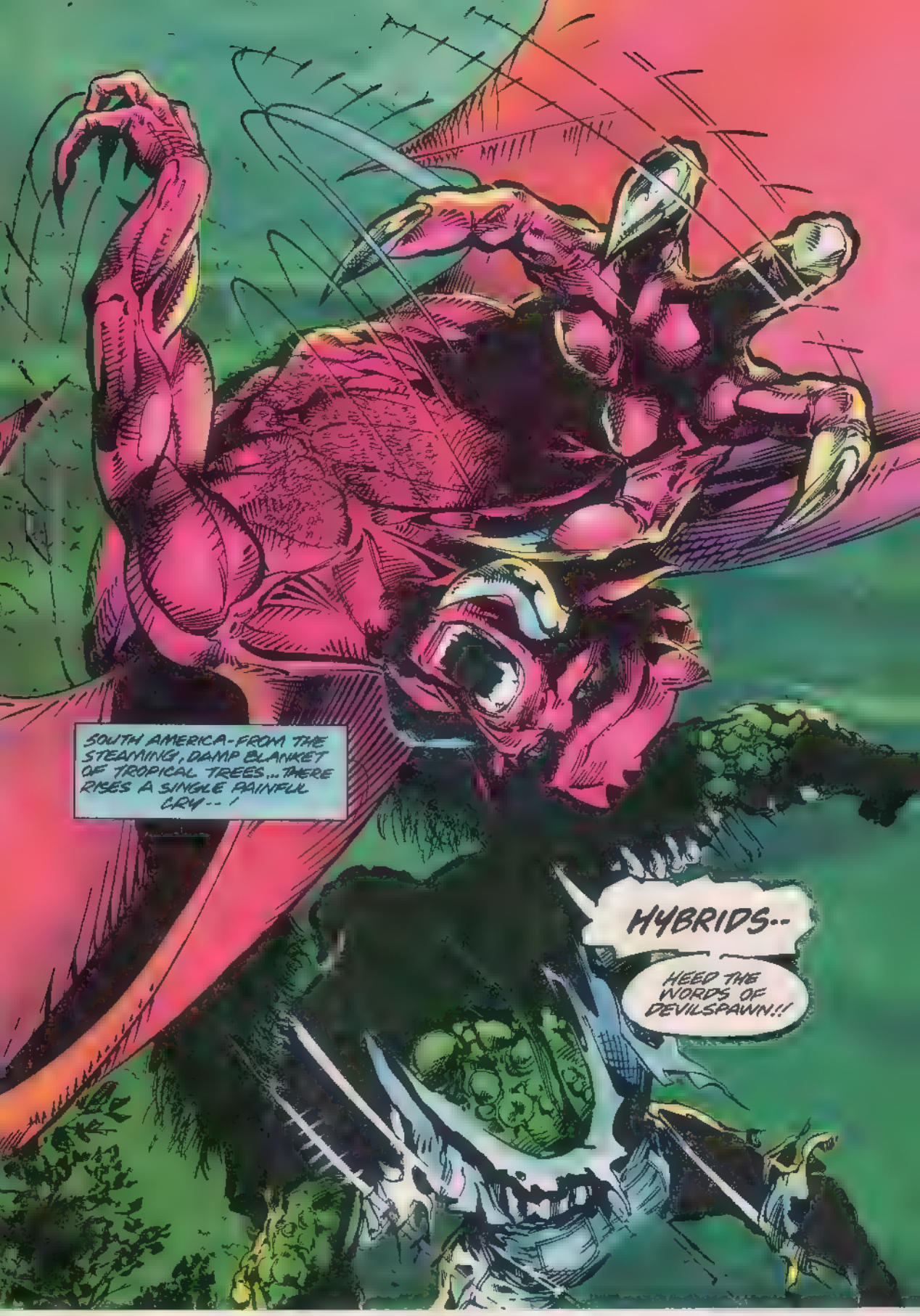
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HANG ON! ENGINE'S FRIED...
WE'RE GOING IN HARD!
SO MUCH... FOR THE ELEMENT OF... SURPRISE.
BETTER SEE... IF THE OTHERS ...ARE ALRIGHT.
VOID'S FISTS, COVERED WITH RADIATION-INDUCED CALLOUSES...
...STRIKE MEGALITH AS HARD AS A STEEL BAR!
UGH!

VOID!
LOOK OUT!
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU BLOATED FREAK!
COME AN' GET ME, GLOWING BOY!
OUTTA THE WAY, VOID-- THIS ONE'S MINE!
HE WOULD WASTE PRECIOUS ENERGY ON YOU, WHILE I CAN ABSORB IT-
--AND SEND IT BACK AT HIM!
WHOA! THIS GUY'S POURING OUT HEAT LIKE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. BUT I CAN TAKE HIM!
I'LL JUST SWITCH ENERGY FREQUENCIES...
HE'S FLASHED!
THANKS, FER KEEPIN' HIM BUSY, HELLFIRE!
AAGGG!

AH, I THOUGHT THERE WAS A LADY AMONGST THIS BOARDING PARTY.
CARE TO DANCE, MY DEAR?
EAT STATIC.!!
...BUT WHAT COULD YOU EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHO WEARS A MASK?
HUARG!
HORACE! I SEE YOU'RE STILL A SHARP DRESSER.
LOVE THE BAT-WINGS!
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, REM..
I KNOW ALL YOUR TRICKS, SO DON'T EVEN TRY TO--!
SWEET, LITTLE SEXY ME!?
I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING--
YOUR MIND WILL DO ALL THE WORK!
HORACE'S WORST FEAR BECOMES REALITY. HIS BODY IS OVERTAKEN BY HIS RADIATION SICKNESS - HORRIBLY MUTATED - BUT KEPT ALIVE BY HIS MAGIC.
THE MAGIC WON'T LET HIM DIE... BUT IT CAN'T HOLD BACK THE PAIN.

UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE IT'S ARMOR ALONE AGAINST THE FREAKS. THAT'S NOTHIN' NEW.
NOT THAT I DON'T LOVE A GOOD SCRAP, BUT THIS MAY BE MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE.
LET ME ROAST HIM.
GO AHEAD BUT WATCH HIM.
HE'S FAST.
HELLFIRE! WAI--
--T.
UGH!
ALMOST FELT THAT...
I'VE SEEN YOUR WORK, LEATHER-BABE!
HMMPH. HE'S A DANGEROUS ONE. BEST NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES...
YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO LET INSIDE MY MIND.
AHH!
...AND THE DEVIL WITH OUR ORDERS!

ARG!
TAGGED HIM.!!
A LIMP BARELY-CONSCIOUS ARMOR DROPS INTO THE OCEAN SINKING LIKE A ROCK.
LONG MOMENTS PASS...
TOO LONG FOR A HUMAN TO HOLD HIS BREATH.
LEPER. YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KILL HIM.!
THE DRAGON...
...DIDN'T SEE ARMOR FIGHT.!
HE WAS TOO GOOD.
IT'S SAFER THIS WAY.



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I HAVE FOUND THE BEING THAT HOLDS OUR...

...AND THIS PLANET'S...

SALVATION!

DEVILSPAWN--!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

LOOK BELOW. THIS JUNGLE IS A TERRIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL DANGER!

LOOK AT THE CFC* LEVEL!

*CHLORO FLOURO-CARBONS. A CHEMICAL THAT DESTROYS THE OZONE LAYER-KRIS.

THERE'S AN ENTIRE COLUMN SHOOTING OUT OF THE JUNGLE!

IN DAYS--THAT COLUMN WILL DEVASTATE MILES OF THE OZONE LAYER!

THEY MUST BE CONTAINED--

--AND TO HADES WITH YOUR "MISSION"!

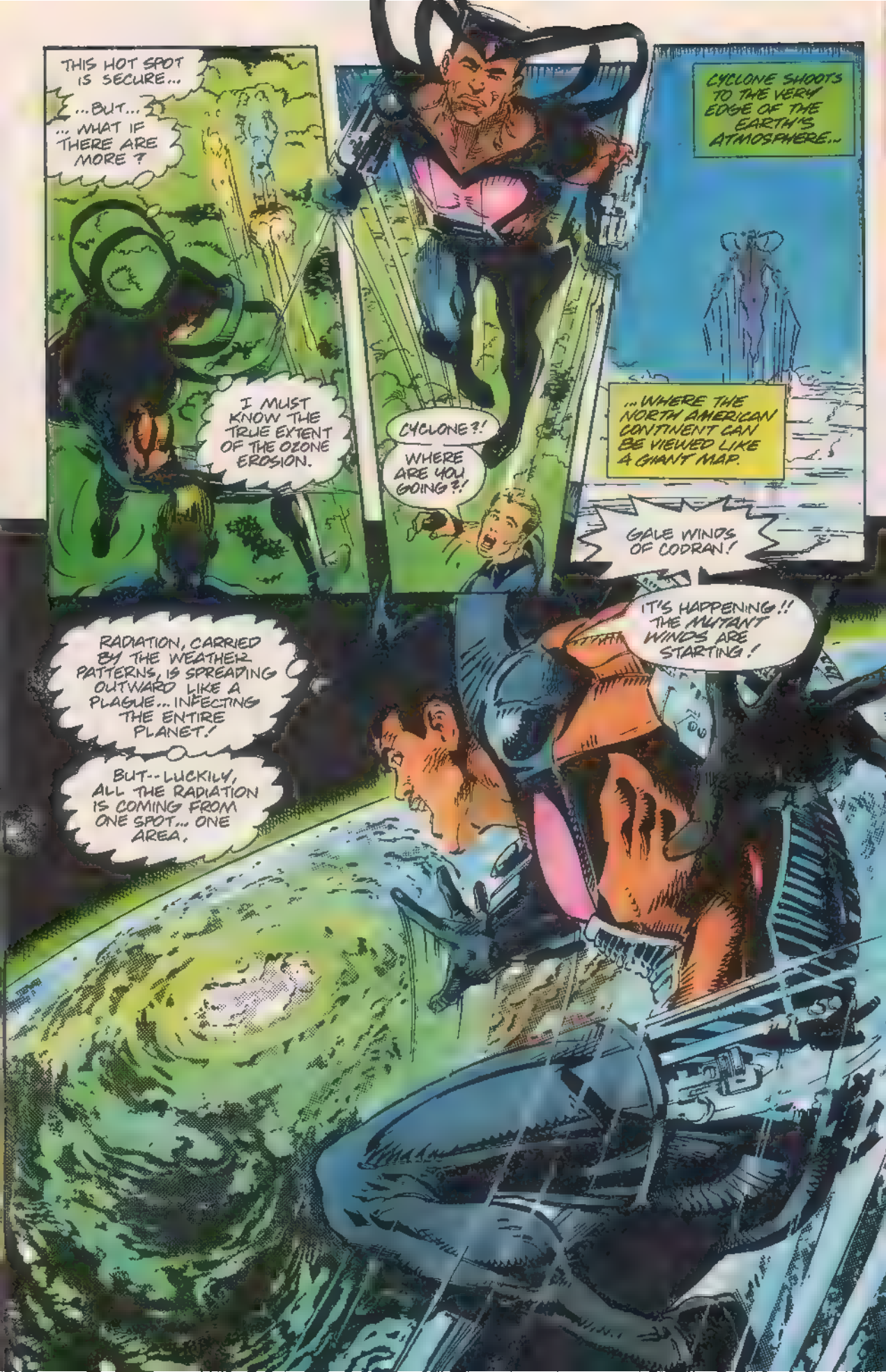
THEN GO!

GO AND SAVE THIS SMALL PART OF A SINGLE CONTINENT...

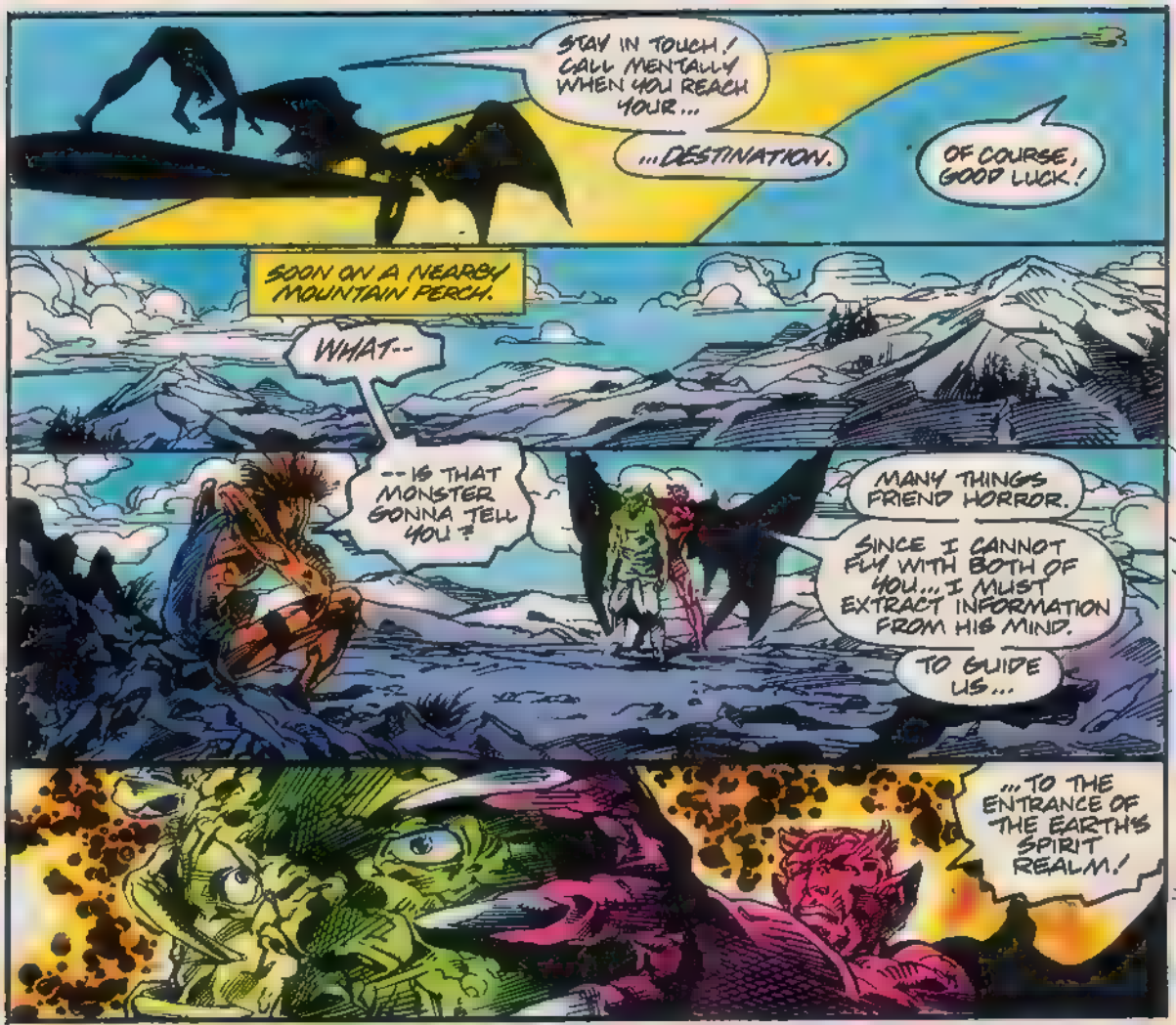
...WHILE I SAVE THE ENTIRE PLANET!

AND CURSE YOU HIGHPERION AND SPANNG TING--

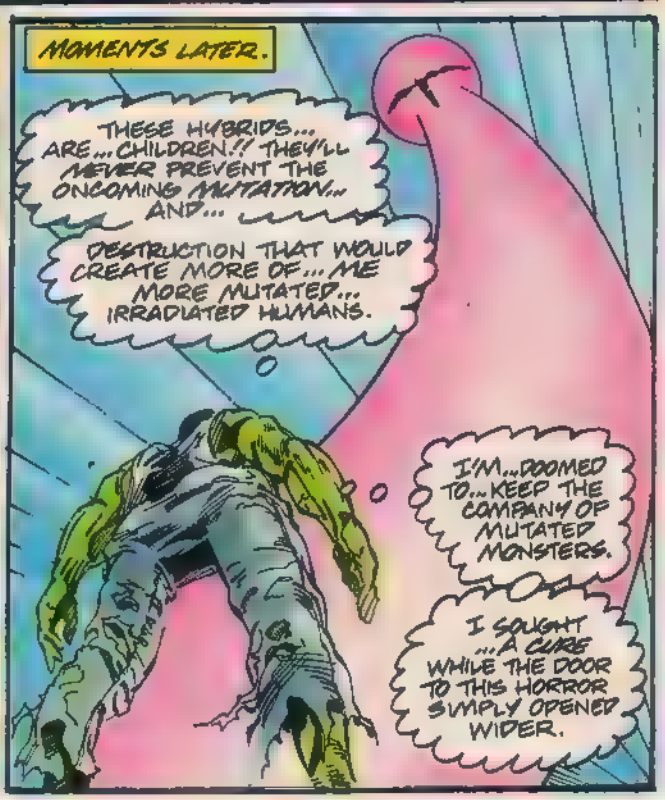
--FOR YOUR LACK OF VISION!!

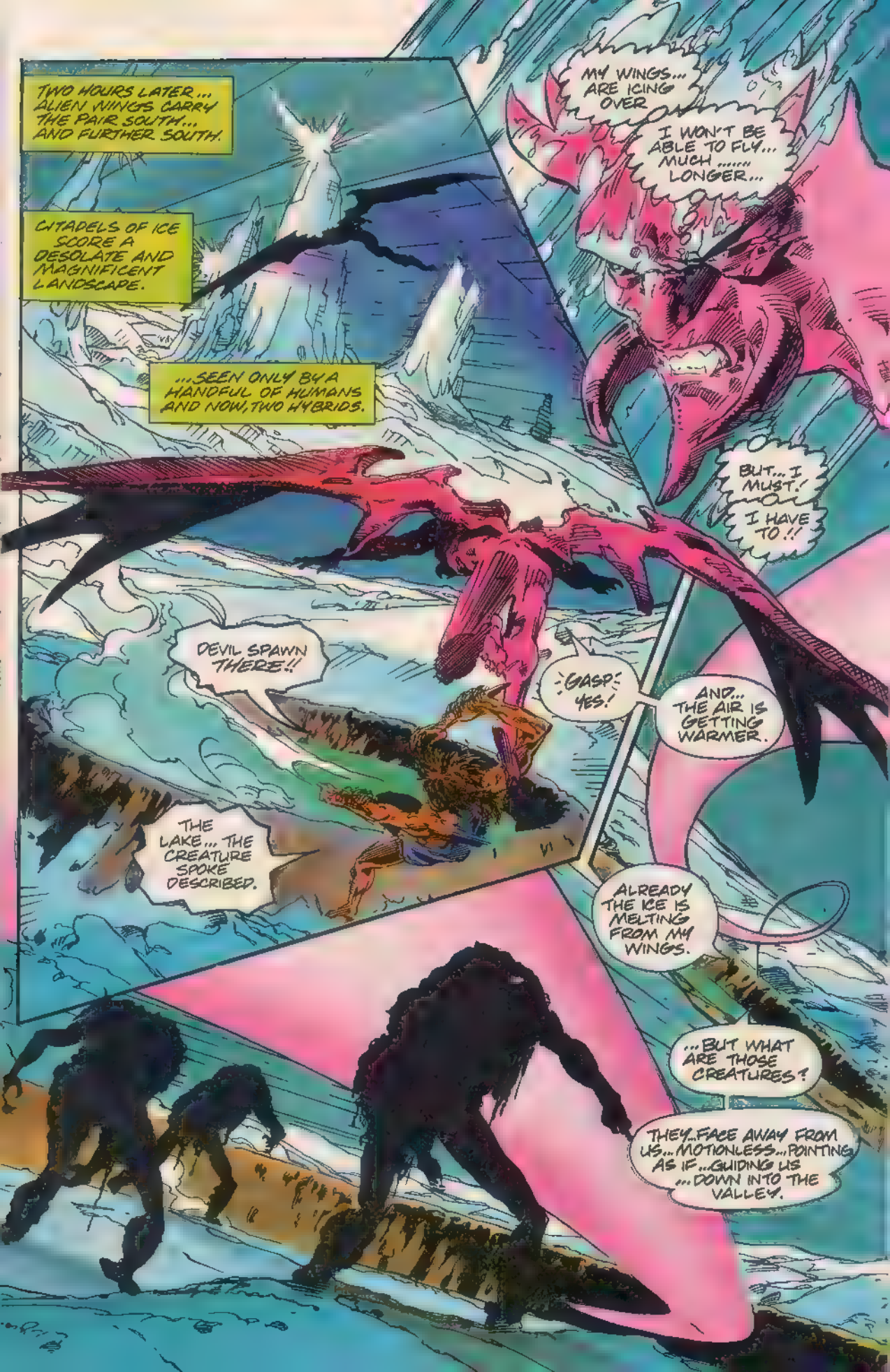

THIS HOT SPOT IS SECURE...
...BUT... ... WHAT IF THERE ARE MORE?
I MUST KNOW THE TRUE EXTENT OF THE OZONE EROSION.
CYCLONE?! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
CYCLONE SHOOTS TO THE VERY EDGE OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
...WHERE THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT CAN BE VIEWED LIKE A GIANT MAP.
GALE WINDS OF CODRAN!
IT'S HAPPENING!! THE MUTANT WINDS ARE STARTING!
RADIATION, CARRIED BY THE WEATHER PATTERNS, IS SPREADING OUTWARD LIKE A PLAGUE... INFECTING THE ENTIRE PLANET!
BUT--LUCKILY, ALL THE RADIATION IS COMING FROM ONE SPOT... ONE AREA.

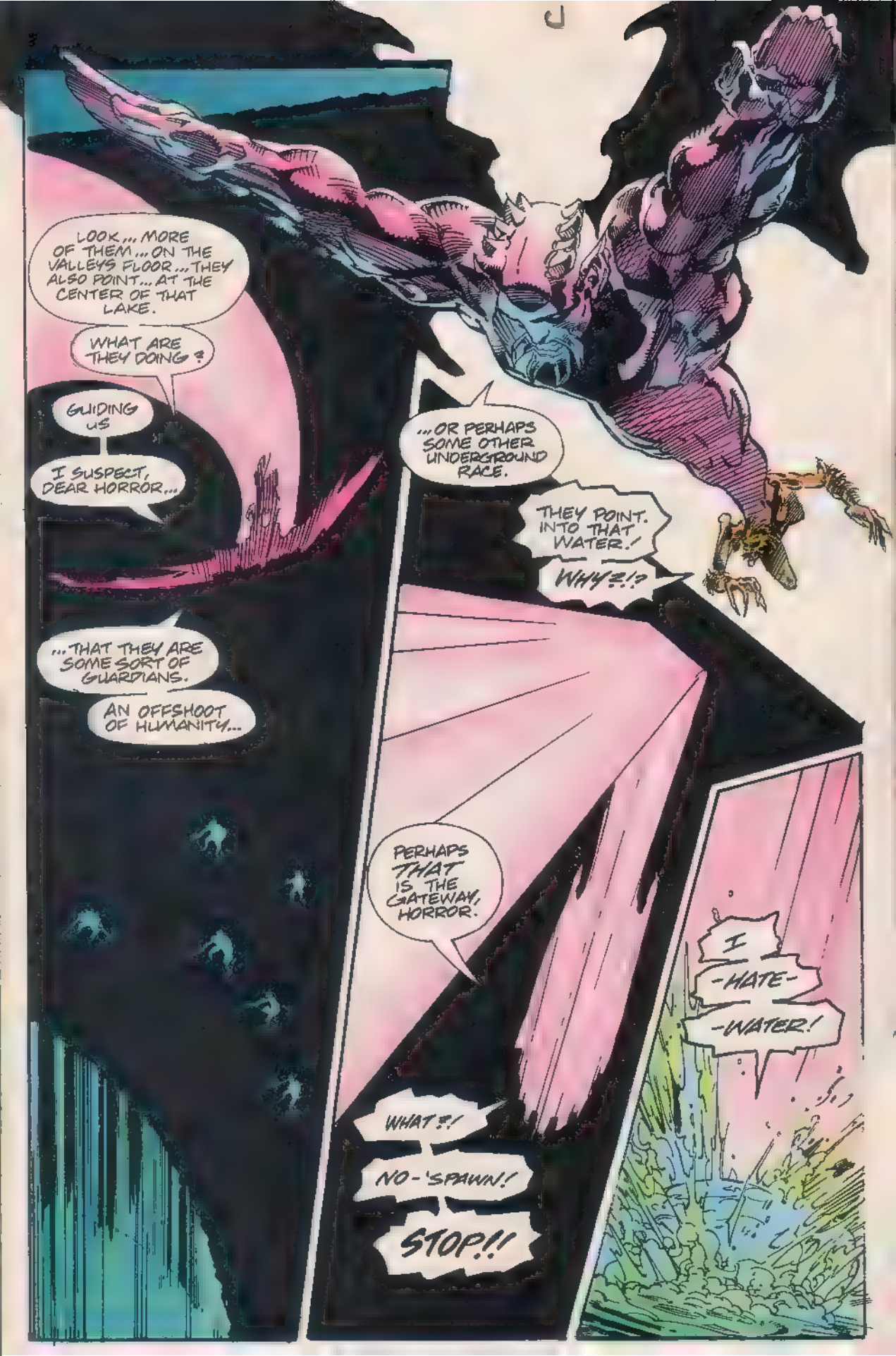
IT MUST BE CONTAINED!!
OR...LIKE 7 OTHER PLANETS IN THE LAST DECADE...
THE MUTANT WINDS WILL KILL ALL SURFACE LIFE...
ALL ANIMALS... BIRDS... REPTILES... FISH... MOST INSECTS... AND 99 PERCENT OF ALL PLANT LIFE.
...LEAVING A HUSK WHERE A LIVING PLANET USED TO BE!
FELLOW HYBRIDS!
THE MUTANT WINDS ARE HERE!
THEY MUST BE HALTED NOW.
'SPAWN'S MISSION MUST WAIT.
NO
THESE EVENTS ARE SOMEHOW CONNECTED.
THEN...WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT-UP.
GYMCRACK YOU CAN COME WITH ME...YOU CAN WITHSTAND HIGH RADIATION LEVELS.
THAT LEAVES ME...ALONE WITH DEVILSPAWN.
IS THAT A PROBLEM, HORROR??
A PROBLEM FOR ME...?
OR FOR... DEVILSPAWN!?!
I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING!!
INCLUDING 'SPAWN - IF HE ACTS UP!!
RARRL!

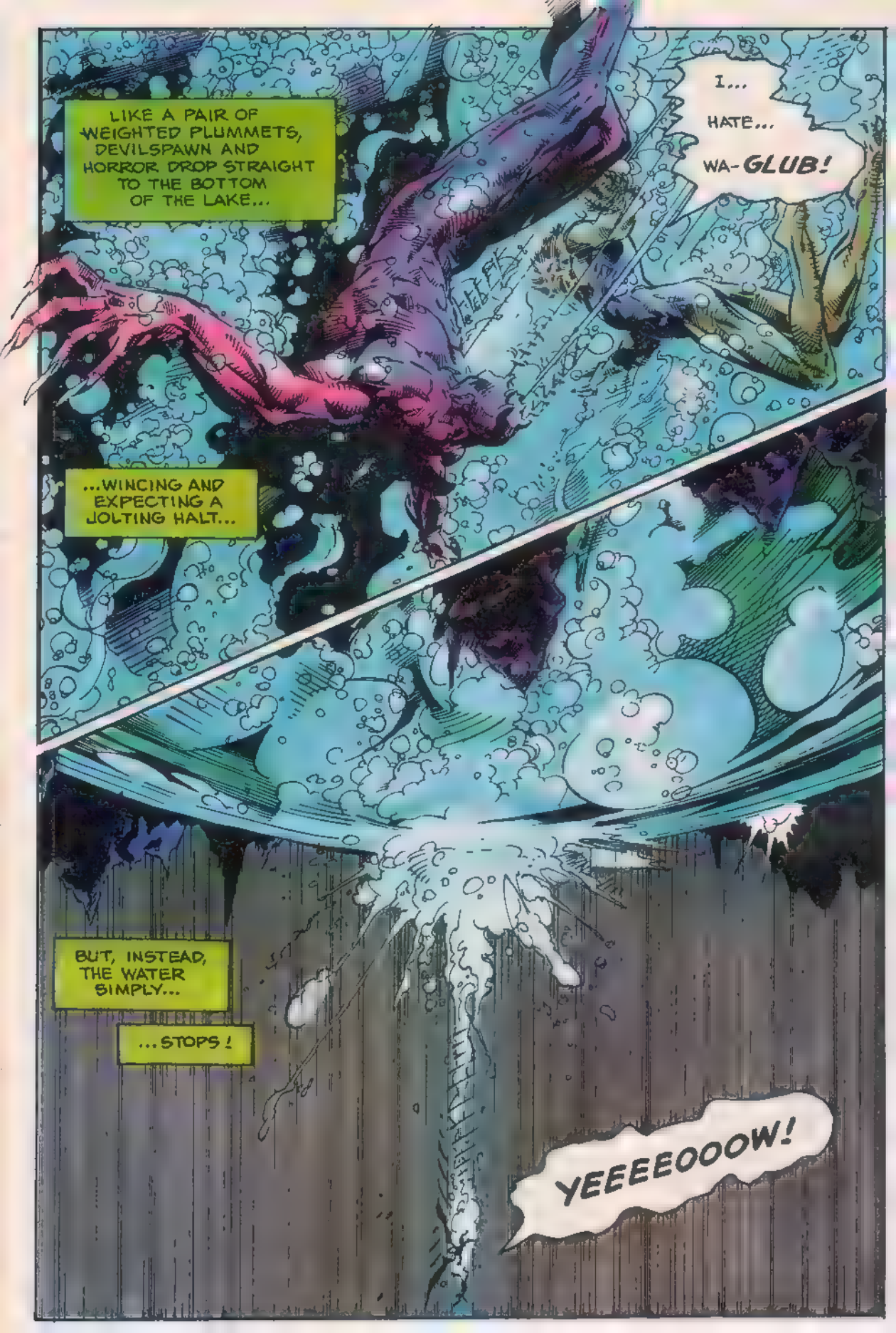

STAY IN TOUCH! CALL MENTALLY WHEN YOU REACH YOUR...
...DESTINATION.
OF COURSE, GOOD LUCK!
SOON ON A NEARBY MOUNTAIN PERCH.
WHAT--
--IS THAT MONSTER GONNA TELL YOU?
MANY THINGS FRIEND HORROR.
SINCE I CANNOT FLY WITH BOTH OF YOU... I MUST EXTRACT INFORMATION FROM HIS MIND.
TO GUIDE US...
...TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE EARTH'S SPIRIT REALM!

AH, A CANYON AT THE BASE OF THE WORLD
WITH A LAKE...
...THE ENTRANCE IS SOMEWHERE NEAR OR IN IT.

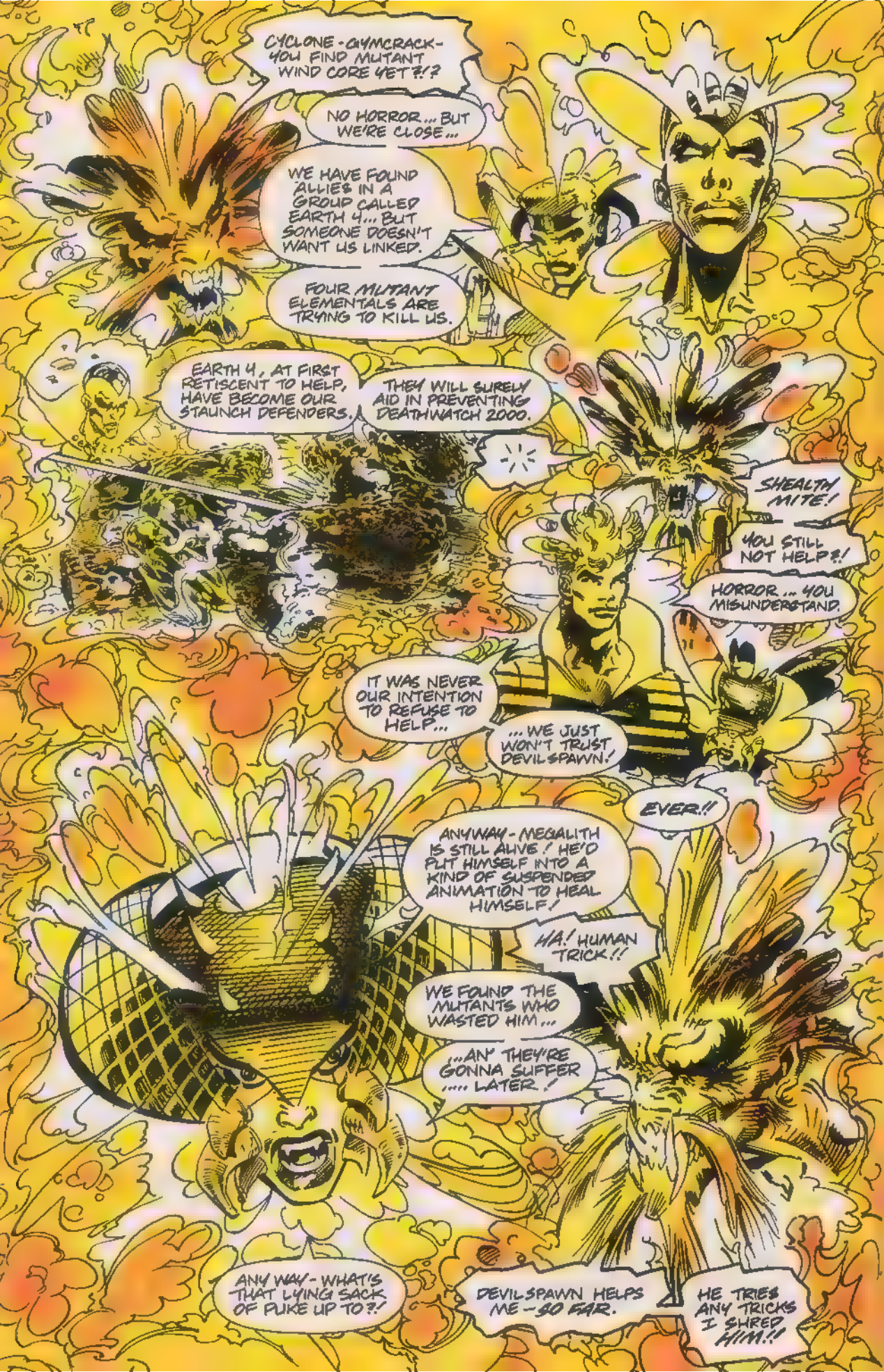

MOMENTS LATER.
THESE HYBRIDS... ARE... CHILDREN!! THEY'LL NEVER PREVENT THE ONCOMING MUTATION... AND...
DESTRUCTION THAT WOULD CREATE MORE OF... ME MORE MUTATED... IRRADIATED HUMANS.
I'M...DOOMED TO...KEEP THE COMPANY OF MUTATED MONSTERS.
I SOUGHT ...A CURE WHILE THE DOOR TO THIS HORROR SIMPLY OPENED WIDER.

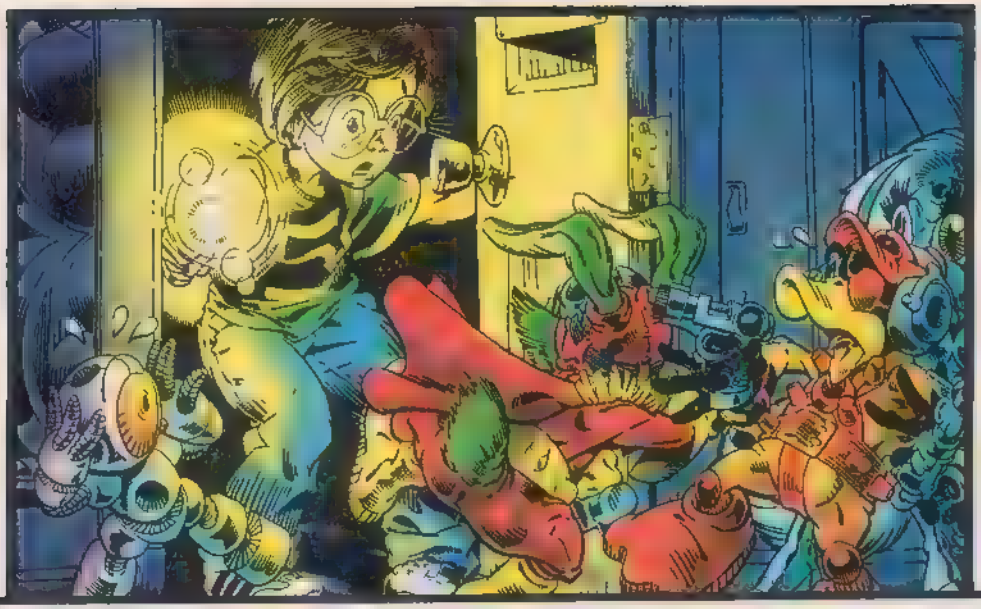

TWO HOURS LATER... ALIEN WINGS CARRY THE PAIR SOUTH... AND FURTHER SOUTH.
CITADELS OF ICE SCORE A DESOLATE AND MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPE.
...SEEN ONLY BY A HANDFUL OF HUMANS AND NOW, TWO HYBRIDS.
MY WINGS... ARE ICING OVER
I WON'T BE ABLE TO FLY... MUCH ..... LONGER...
BUT... I MUST! I HAVE TO!!
DEVIL SPAWN THERE!!
GASP! YES!
AND... THE AIR IS GETTING WARMER.
THE LAKE... THE CREATURE SPOKE DESCRIBED.
ALREADY THE ICE IS MELTING FROM MY WINGS.
...BUT WHAT ARE THOSE CREATURES?
THEY...FACE AWAY FROM US...MOTIONLESS...POINTING AS IF...GUIDING US ...DOWN INTO THE VALLEY.


LOOK... MORE OF THEM... ON THE VALLEYS FLOOR... THEY ALSO POINT... AT THE CENTER OF THAT LAKE.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
GUIDING US
I SUSPECT, DEAR HORROR...
...THAT THEY ARE SOME SORT OF GUARDIANS.
AN OFFSHOOT OF HUMANITY...
...OR PERHAPS SOME OTHER UNDERGROUND RACE.
THEY POINT. INTO THAT WATER.!
WHY?!?
PERHAPS THAT IS THE GATEWAY, HORROR.
WHAT?!
NO-'SPAWN!
STOP!!
I
-HATE-
-WATER!

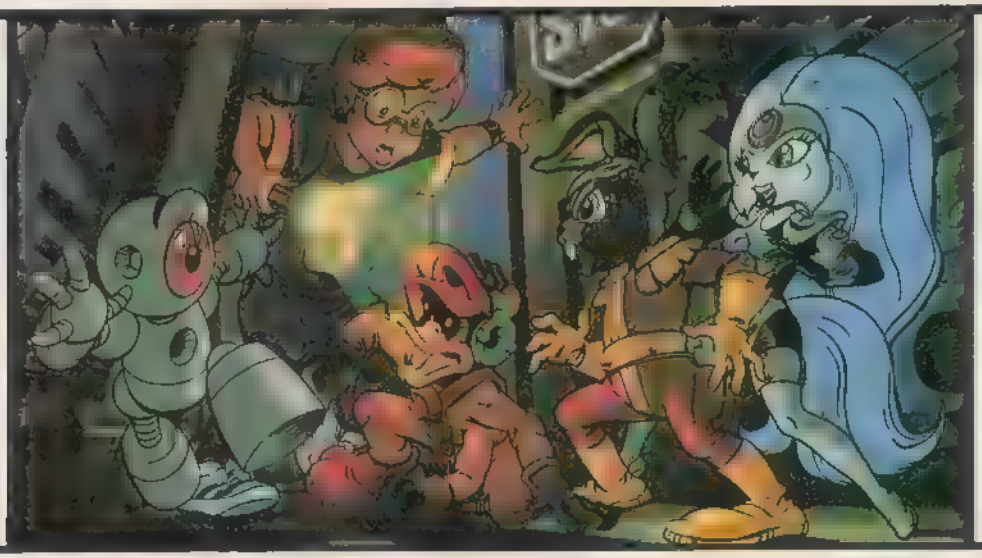

LIKE A PAIR OF WEIGHTED PLUMMETS, DEVILSPAWN AND HORROR DROP STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE...
I... HATE... WA-GLUB!
...WINCING AND EXPECTING A JOLTING HALT...
BUT, INSTEAD, THE WATER SIMPLY...
...STOPS!
YEEEEOOOW!

I-
-HATE-
:COUGH:
WATER!
OUGHTTA KILL DEVILSPAWN...
NO...
...THEN I FALL.
BAD IDEA.
LIKE TA CUT IM!
GOTTA CALL...
...OTHER HYBRIDS!
'FORE I GET...
...TOO DEEP UNDER-GROUND.
SPANNG TING-- LISTEN UP!!
IT'S HORROR!
I'M RECIEVING YOU CLEARLY, HORROR. NO NEED TO SHOUT.
WE'RE STILL IN THE JUNGLE OF EARTH'S SOUTHERN CONTINENT...
...AND WE'VE DISCOVERED LIZARD/BIRD CREATURES CALLED DINOSAURS STILL EXIST.
AND AN ELEMENTAL GODDESS NAMED MS. MYSTIC HAS BECOME OUR ALLY. *
THESE DINOS PROTECT A CORE OF CFCS LEAKING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.
WE'RE ATTACKING NOW-WE'LL TALK LATER.
* *SEE MS. MYSTIC #1 FOR THE FULL STORY-KRIS.


CYCLONE - GYMCRACK - YOU FIND MUTANT WIND CORE YET?!?
NO HORROR... BUT WE'RE CLOSE...
WE HAVE FOUND ALLIES IN A GROUP CALLED EARTH 4... BUT SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT US LINKED.
FOUR MUTANT ELEMENTALS ARE TRYING TO KILL US.
EARTH 4, AT FIRST RETISCENT TO HELP, HAVE BECOME OUR STAUNCH DEFENDERS.
THEY WILL SURELY AID IN PREVENTING DEATHWATCH 2000.
SHEALTH MITE!
YOU STILL NOT HELP?!
HORROR... YOU MISUNDERSTAND.
IT WAS NEVER OUR INTENTION TO REFUSE TO HELP...
... WE JUST WON'T TRUST DEVILSPAWN!
EVER!!
ANYWAY - MEGALITH IS STILL ALIVE! HE'D PUT HIMSELF INTO A KIND OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION TO HEAL HIMSELF!
HA! HUMAN TRICK!!
WE FOUND THE MUTANTS WHO WASTED HIM...
...AN' THEY'RE GONNA SUFFER .... LATER!
ANY WAY - WHAT'S THAT LYING SACK OF PUKE UP TO?!
DEVILSPAWN HELPS ME - SO FAR.
HE TRIES ANY TRICKS I SHRED HIM!!



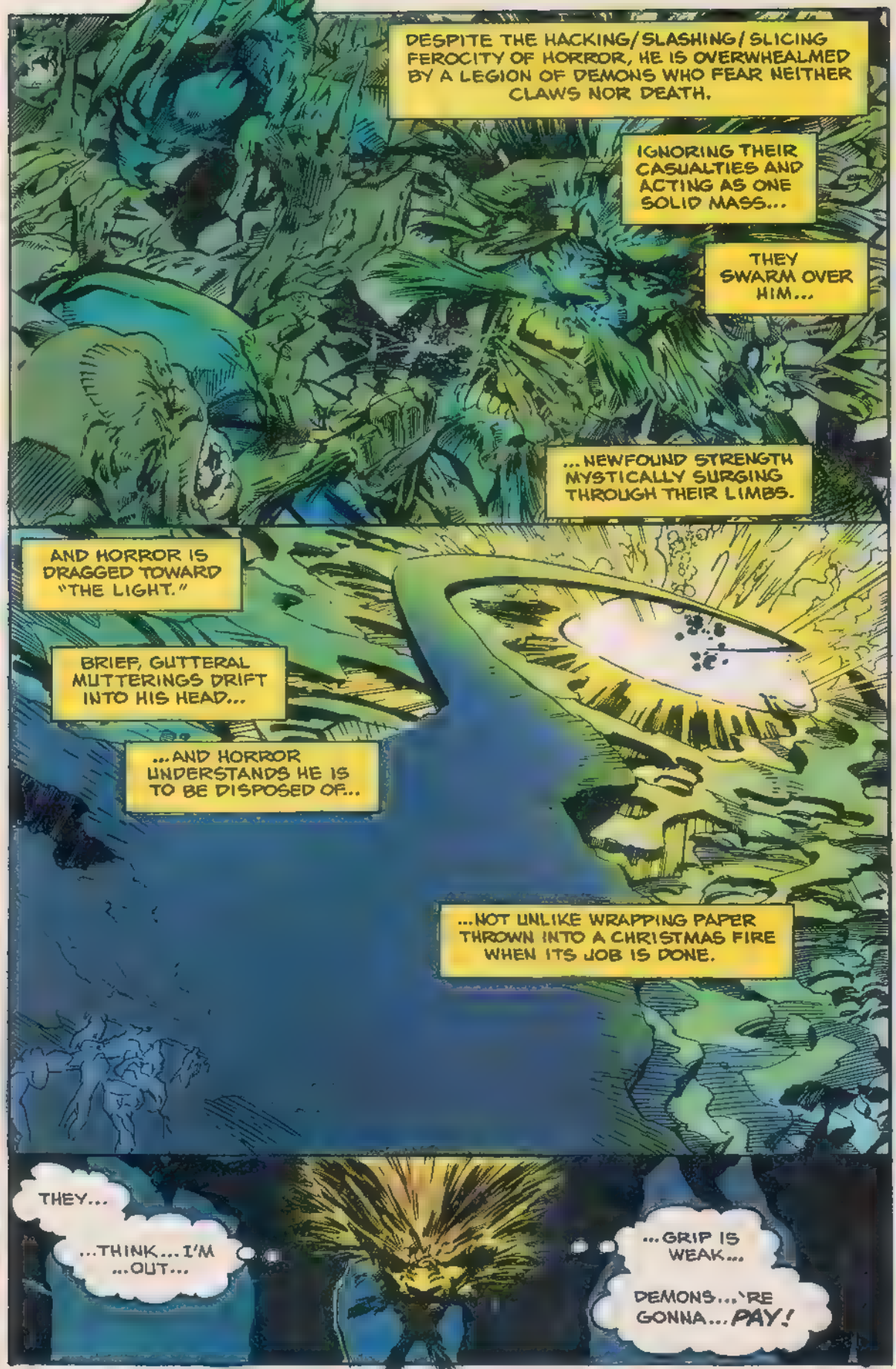
THE COMIC IS ABOUT TO BECOME BUCKY O'HARE THE TV SHOW

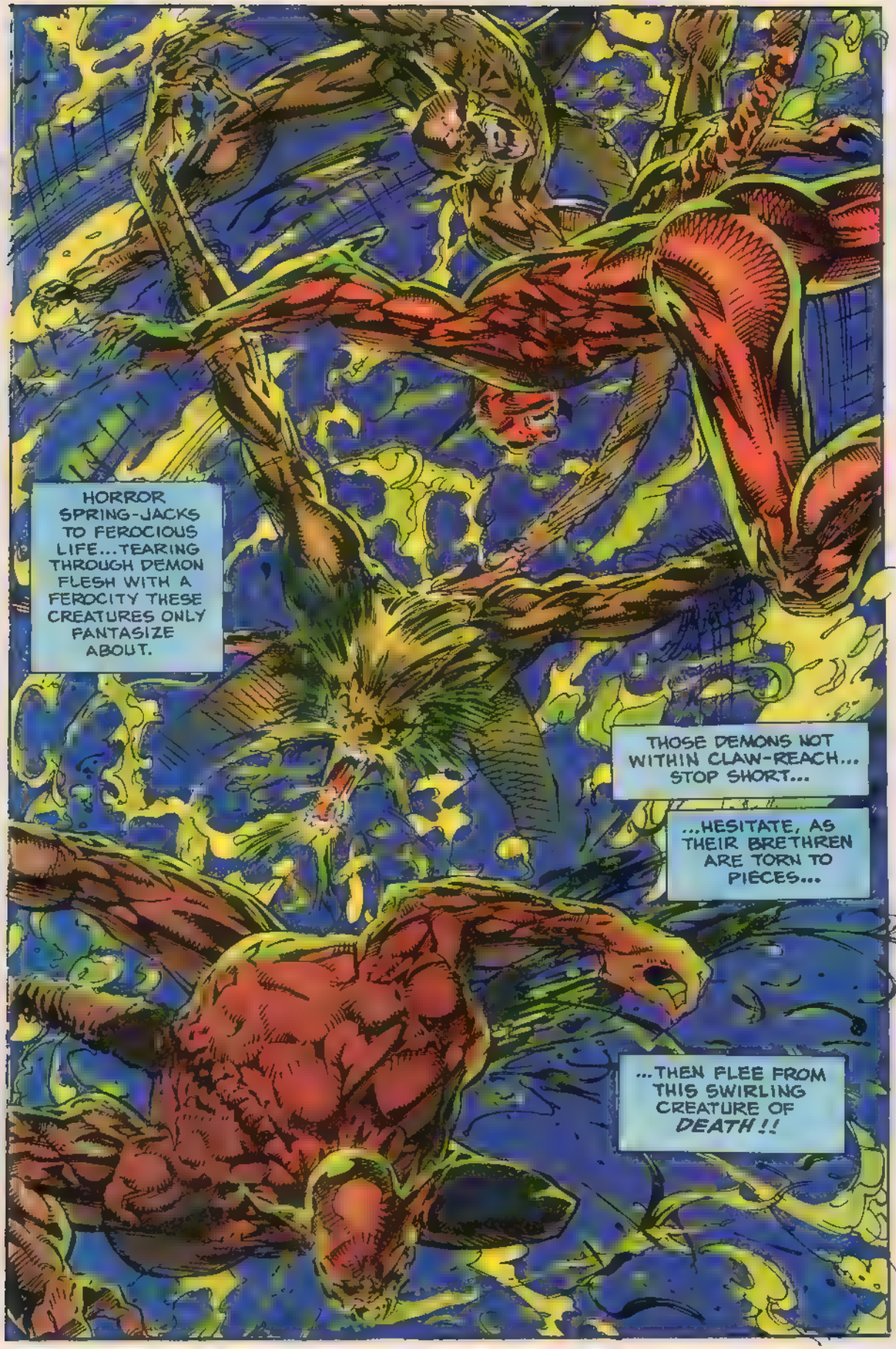


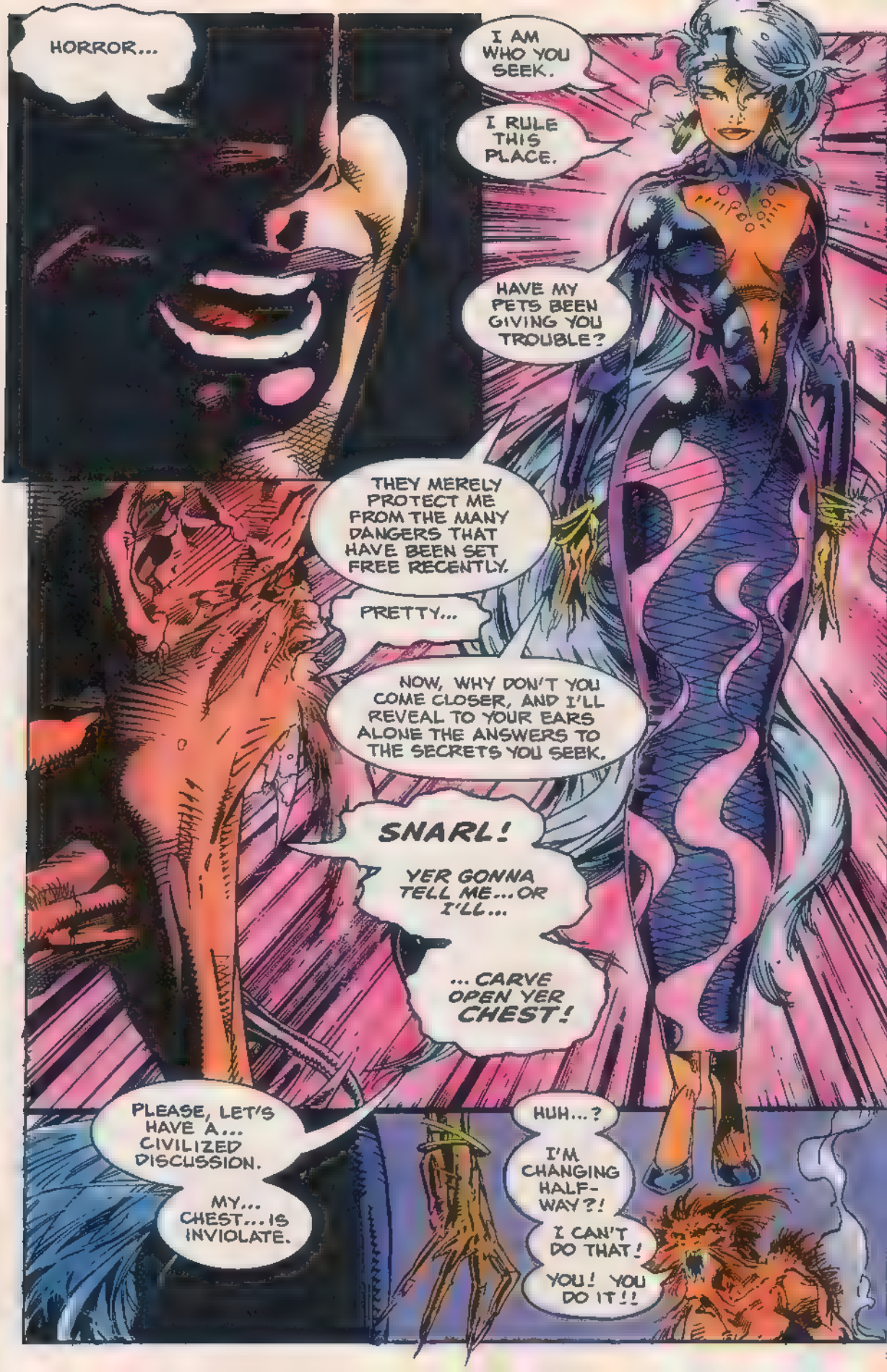
AND BUCKY O'HARE THE TOYS FROM HASBRO

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, HORROR...
...BUT IT WOULD APPEAR... THAT WE ARE ENTERING THE SPIRITUAL CORE OF THIS PLANET.
FROM THERE ON, WE ARE IN UNCHARTED SECTORS... THE PAST AND THE PRESENT EXIST TOGETHER...
LIFE AND PRE-LIFE MINGLE...
AND THE DANGER INCREASES AT EVERY STEP!
SHUT UP!
JUST FLY 'FORE I CHEW YA UP!

MY LEG!!
FOUL INTRUDER!
EEYAA!!
LET —GO— CUR!!
NO WAY!
TAKE HIM, BROTHERS!
BRING HIM TO THE LIGHT!
CAN'T GET RID OF ME...
SNARL!
CATCH ME...
...AND LOSE YOUR FACES!!
...BY THROWING ME TO OTHERS!!
DON'T CARE WHO... YOU ARE...
YOU ALL DIE!!


DESPITE THE HACKING/SLASHING/SLICING FEROCITY OF HORROR, HE IS OVERWHELMED BY A LEGION OF DEMONS WHO FEAR NEITHER CLAWS NOR DEATH.
IGNORING THEIR CASUALTIES AND ACTING AS ONE SOLID MASS...
THEY SWARM OVER HIM...
...NEWFOUND STRENGTH MYSTICALLY SURGING THROUGH THEIR LIMBS.
AND HORROR IS DRAGGED TOWARD "THE LIGHT."
BRIEF, GUTTERAL MUTTERINGS DRIFT INTO HIS HEAD...
...AND HORROR UNDERSTANDS HE IS TO BE DISPOSED OF...
...NOT UNLIKE WRAPPING PAPER THROWN INTO A CHRISTMAS FIRE WHEN ITS JOB IS DONE.
THEY...
...THINK... I'M ...OUT...
...GRIP IS WEAK...
DEMONS...'RE GONNA... PAY!


HORROR SPRING-JACKS TO FEROCIOUS LIFE...TEARING THROUGH DEMON FLESH WITH A FEROCITY THESE CREATURES ONLY FANTASIZE ABOUT.
THOSE DEMONS NOT WITHIN CLAW-REACH... STOP SHORT...
...HESITATE, AS THEIR BRETHREN ARE TORN TO PIECES...
...THEN FLEE FROM THIS SWIRLING CREATURE OF *DEATH!!*

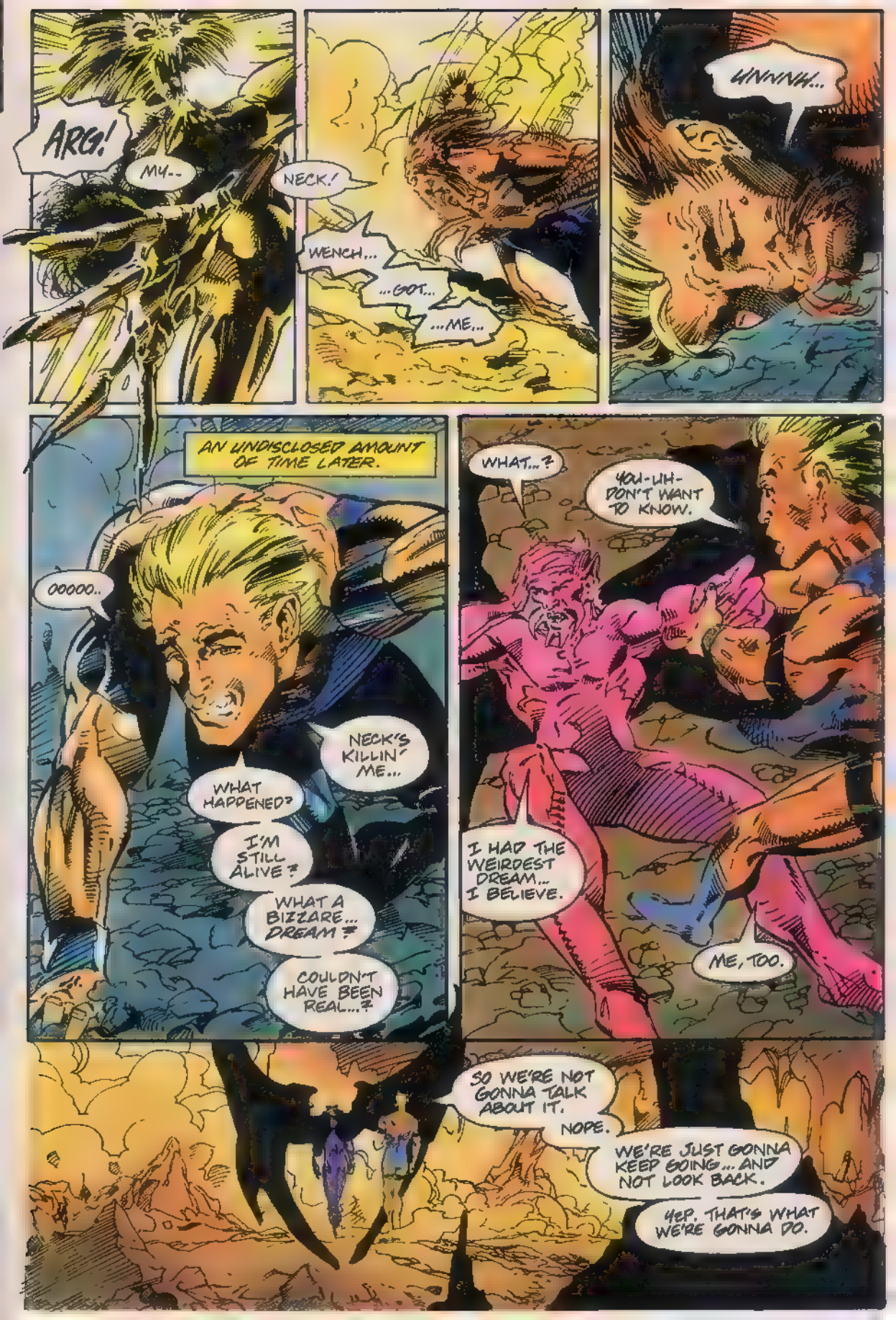

HORROR...
I AM WHO YOU SEEK.
I RULE THIS PLACE.
HAVE MY PETS BEEN GIVING YOU TROUBLE?
THEY MERELY PROTECT ME FROM THE MANY DANGERS THAT HAVE BEEN SET FREE RECENTLY.
PRETTY...
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU COME CLOSER, AND I'LL REVEAL TO YOUR EARS ALONE THE ANSWERS TO THE SECRETS YOU SEEK.
SNARL!
YER GONNA TELL ME... OR I'LL...
... CARVE OPEN YER CHEST!
PLEASE, LET'S HAVE A... CIVILIZED DISCUSSION.
MY... CHEST... IS INVIOLATE.
HUH...?
I'M CHANGING HALF-WAY?!
I CAN'T DO THAT!
YOU! YOU DO IT!!

OF COURSE.
I CAN DO MANY THINGS.
I CAN ALSO SENSE YOUR URGENCY...
...YOUR DESIRE...
...YOUR MENTAL ANGUISH.
WITH BUT A THOUGHT, I CAN TRANSFORM YOU COMPLETELY...
...BACK TO YOUR HUMAN FORM.
COME CLOSER AND I WILL WHISPER YOUR SECRET DREAMS.
SNARL!
YOU LIE?
INCREDIBLE.
UNBIDDEN, YOU CAN CONTROL MY TRANSFORMATION.
YOU MUST OPERATE ON SOME MENTAL LEVEL...
...CLOSING SOME CIRCUIT IN MY BRAIN.
A CIRCUIT THAT EVEN I CAN'T CONTROL.

HORROR...
HORROR!!
HUH?
THAT CREATURE IS ALTERING YOUR PERCEPTION OF REALITY!
WHAT... CREATURE?
THE WOMAN!
I HAVE STRONG...UNH ...MENTAL SHIELDS...
...SO SHE CAN'T TRICK ME...
I SEE HER AS SHE REALLY IS! HER... UGH... CREATURES HAVE TO...
PHYSICALLY RESTRAIN ME!
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER!!
EXCUSE MY FRIEND, BUT HE SEEMS TO THINK...
SACRED TARIC!!

YOU SHOULD HAVE IGNORED YOUR ALLY, HUMAN...!
YOUR DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN QUIET AND PAINLESS...
DYING IN THE ARMS OF YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
BUT EITHER WAY, LIGHT-LOVER...
YOUR LIFE-FORCE WILL FEED ZAAM-PHIIIRE FOR A MONTH!

YOUCH!
ALMOST...WAIT! I'M NOT CHANGING!
SHE'S CONTROLLING ME... STILL!
I'M HELPLESS!
YEEARG!
BUT ONLY WHEN I'M CLOSE!
I HAVE TO GET...
SNARL!
AWAY!
YOU TRY TO KILL ME?
YOU ARE NOTHING!
COME AND GREET DEATH!
COME AND LET HORROR TASTE YOUR BLOODY ENTRAILS!


ARG!
MY--
NECK!
WENCH...
...GOT...
...ME...
UNNNH...
AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT OF TIME LATER.
OOOOO..
NECK'S KILLIN' ME...
WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M STILL ALIVE?
WHAT A BIZZARE... DREAM?
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN REAL...?
WHAT...?
YOU-UH- DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
I HAD THE WEIRDEST DREAM... I BELIEVE.
ME, TOO.
SO WE'RE NOT GONNA TALK ABOUT IT.
NOPE.
WE'RE JUST GONNA KEEP GOING... AND NOT LOOK BACK.
YEP. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO.

...ON THE SURFACE WORLD, IT BEGINS.
TWO HUNDRED MILES FROM ANY CIVILIZATION... NESTLED A MERE TWO MILES FROM THE SITE OF A GLOBAL NATURAL DISASTER...
A WEAPON IS BEING BUILT.
A MONUMENT TO THE DREAMS OF A CREATURE ...A DRAGON... WHO WILL BRING ABOUT THE *END* OF SURFACE LIFE ON THIS PLANET.
ONCE IT WAS *YEARS*...
...THEN *MONTHS*...
...NOW *HOURS* SEPARATE ME FROM THE FINAL MOMENT!
RAGNAROK... *ARMAGEDON*... THE CLUSTER BOMBING OF THE OLD WORLD.

MY ALLIES ARE IN PLACE...
...ALL MY TOOLS, GATHERED FOR A NEW UTOPIA.
THE NEW ORDER WILL ARISE —LED BY MY HELLBENDERS...!
TITANS, MUTANTS, ALL UNDERGROUND DEMONS AND CREATURES...
A REBIRTH OF THIS PLANET...
...SWORN TO ME!
ALL WILL SWARM THE SURFACE.
ALL WILL HONOR AND SERVE ME...
BUILT UPON THE ROTTING CORPSES OF FOUR BILLION FLESHLY, MINDLESS HUMANS.
...I WILL BE MASTER OF THIS... THIS REMADE WORLD!

THE ACCELERATOR LOST...

I LOST. THEY STOLE IT...

SCUF

HUH?

NO!!

Plot: **Neal Adams** Story: **Peter Stone** Pencils: **Ernesto Infante** Inks: **Andres Klasic**
Colors: **Jason Adams** Lettering: **Gail Beckett** Cover Art: **Rudy Nebres**

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SH-UGH!

SLAM

FOUL BLOW, MONSTER!

MEGALITH HAS ENDURED TOO MUCH VIOLENCE ALREADY TODAY!

TURN AND FACE A TRUE HYBRID—A GRAVITY MODIFIER FROM TROMBROOR!

WHO GAINED HIS NAME IN A SHADOW DANCE OF HONOR—

SHEALTH!

THAT IS— IF YOU DARE!

THIS CREATURE MUST BE ONE OF THOSE "TITANS" MEGALITH SPOKE OF.

HE IS TOO BIG FOR ME TO DARE TO HOLD BACK.

YIELD, FOUL CREATURE— OR BE BURIED BY 30 TONS OF RUBBLE!

HEH, HEH.

DON'T MAKE THE WRONG CHOI—

SSSSSSAM

UGH!

G'WAY

NICE PUNCH.

YOU'RE A SCRAPPER, ALL RIGHT.

UH?!

BUT THAT UGLY SKIN AIN'T GONNA SAVE YA FROM— MITE.

C'MON—LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YA ARE WHEN YA TAKE ON THE BEST WARRIOR—

—FROM HIVE WORLD!!

STOP!

HE'S NOT—

—THE ENEMY!

IN THE DARK, DARREL MUST HAVE THOUGHT I WAS A HELLBENDER.

IT WAS A MISTAKE!

UGLY THING... EVEN BY *MY* STANDARDS.

YOU SURE HE ISN'T A BAD GUY?

VERY SURE.

SEVEN MOONS! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!

A BATTLE... AND I LOST.

SEE THAT PLATFORM? THE ONE WITH THE BROKEN CLAMPS?

YEAH.

IT ONCE HELD A PARTICLE ACCELERATOR.

IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH TO YOU, GROWING UP ON ANOTHER PLANET, BUT TO US, IT REPRESENTS THE NEXT LEVEL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE—

THE TITANS... THE HELLBENDERS... AND WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE OF THEM... THEY ALL WANTED IT.

AND...I DON'T KNOW WHY.

ANOTHER QUESTION IS...IF THEY STOLE THE ACCELERATOR...

WHY IS DARREL STILL HERE?

HE SHOULD BE FREE TO LEAVE... UNLESS...

...HIS JOB IS NOT DONE.

WHAT'S THE DEAL, JOSEF??

YEAH!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A HELPING HAND, NOT A PLANETARY POLICEMAN. WHY ARE YOU SO CONCERNED?

SIGH. IT'S THE OZONE LAYER... YOU WOULDN'T... UNDER...

UNDERSTAND?! WHY?! 'CAUSE WE'RE NEW HERE? 'CAUSE YOU THINK YOU'RE *SPECIAL*?!

WE'RE *HALF* HUMAN YOU KNOW!

I-I'M SORRY. I INVOLVED YOU. ...IT'S ONLY FAIR I TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

'BOUT TIME.

I UNDERSTAND. IT'S DEADLY STUFF.

THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE. *THIS* FACTORY PRODUCES 3 TIMES MORE CFC'S THAN ANY NORMAL COMPANY.

MILLIONS OF CUBIC LITERS OF CHLOROFLOUROCARBONS ARE DISAPPEARING ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

MY COMPUTERS POINTED IT OUT... I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

AND IT ALL VANISHES! I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE IT GOES!

IT WOULDN'T MATTER BUT...IF THAT STUFF GETS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE...

HUH?

SCATTER!!

HUNH?!

I'M..., COUGH!... OKAY, DARREL.

SHEALTH— HELP MEG!

I'M AFTER THE SNIPER!

WAIT A SECOND, MITE!

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME SMOKE FOR COVER!

THAT ENERGY... WAS ONLY MEANT TO STUN...

...NOT KILL.

BESIDES... I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE TO GO!

MEGALITH ANGLES HIS BODY LIKE A HIGH JUMPER...

...TUCKING HIS BODY TIGHT...

...ALLOWING HIM TO LAND GRACEFULLY A GOOD DISTANCE FROM HIS STARTING POINT.

HO, MEG!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD FLY.

I WASN'T FLYING... I WAS JUMPING.

YOU *WERE* FLYING... AT LEAST 4 HUNDRED YARDS!

BUT... I CAN'T FLY.

HI, SEXY.

HUH! WHO ARE YOU?

MY FRIENDS CALL ME REM.

WANNA BE MY NEW FRIEND?

YOU MUST BE BE PRETTY STRONG, MEGALITH...

...I THOUGHT WE KILLED YOU...

...SO THIS TIME I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE!!

SIC HIM, FLECS!!

HU-ARG!

TRAPPED...

...GOTTA PROTECT...

...MY HEAD!

UGH!

DROVE MY FEET...

...INTO THE GROUND!

CAN'T MOVE! CAN'T DODGE...

HARG

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?

SOMETHING'S ATTACKING...

...BUT...

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!

BURNING... UP!!

IT'S HER!

SHE'S DOING SOMETHING TO MEG'S MIND!

WHOOPS! HYBRIDS!

TIME TO SCAT!

M-M-M-M-MITE? WATCH... REM.

NO WORRIES, BIG GUY!

NO CHANCE THAT EARTHER CAN OUTRUN *MITE!*

I GOT MORE LIMBS THAN A TREE.

BETTER GIVE IT UP NOW, PINK-HAIR...

ARE YOU ABLE TO THINK CLEARLY AGAIN, MEGALITH?

WHOOOOO... Y-Y-YEAH.

I'LL BE OKAY.

...'CAUSE I GOT 360 DEGREE VISION...

AND I CAN SEE IN THE DARK OF SPACE!

I'VE *SEEN* WHAT REM CAN DO, BUT I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED IT FIRST-HAND.

SHE'S VICIOUS.

AND— MITE WENT AFTER HER ALONE!

WE'VE GOT TO—

GOTCHA GOTCHA!

AHHHH. IT'S USUALLY MITE'S... VICTIM... WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.

NOT THE PRETTY LADY HERSELF.

BUT—

DON'T WORRY ...MITE PROBABLY WON'T *KILL* REM... YET.

MITE? WHERE ARE YOU, BUG?

C'MON IN, GUYS...

ARE YOU *AFRAID* OF THE DARK?

I CAUGHT HER WHEN SHE TRIED TO FIND MY GREATEST FEAR.

TOO BAD SHE DIDN'T KNOW...

LEAST SHE'S STILL ALIVE.

I AIN'T AFRAID OF ANYTHING!

MMPH! MGRPHKL BSSSDZ!

THAT CAN BE FIXED EASILY ENOUGH...

YOU WANT ME TO SLICE OPEN HER THROAT?

I THINK THAT *MIGHT* BE A LITTLE DRASTIC, MITE...

BUT—

I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T *BASH* THE INFERIOR EARTHER!

YEAH, DO IT, SHEALTH—

UGH!

FINE!

SHOULD'VE STRUCK WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE, WENCH!

WHA—?!

HOW, SHEALTH?

HOW DID YOU— UGH

HOW DID I KNOW YOU WEREN'T MITE? YOU THINK I'M STUPID?

I SAW THROUGH YOUR RUSE INSTANTLY.

ALL OF THE HYBRIDS ARE LINKED PSYCICALLY...

WE SHARE EMOTIONS... THOUGHTS... WE SPEAK MENTALLY TO EACH OTHER.

WE'RE LIKE ONE BEING WITH MANY LIMBS.

I'M *FINE*, MEG! STOP FUSSING LIKE A HIVE-MOTHER! THAT EARTHER JUST CONFUSED ME...

LET ME AT THAT—!

OHHH...

WAIT, MITE. HORROR'S CALLING. *

SOUNDS SERIOUS.

OKAY...

I GUESS... I'LL JUST WAIT...

WOW, STRONG LINK... DISTANCE DOESN'T MATTER.

* SEE HYBRIDS # 1 FOR THIS CONVERSATION—KRIS

THOOM

HUH? AN EXPLOSION ...IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE COMPLEX!

IT'S THE REST OF THE HELLBENDERS!

THEY'RE STILL AFTER *SOMETHING.*

SOMETHING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF...

—THIS WALL.

OH, *NO!!*

IT'S THE PROTOTYPE VAULT! WHERE THE REST OF THE PARTICLE ACCELERATORS ARE STORED!

NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM. BUT...

THEY'RE STEALING THE OTHER PROTOTYPES!

NO TIME TO SEARCH FOR A DOOR...

WHICH'LL BE LOCKED ANYWAY.

GOTTA— —UMPH—

—GET— —UGH—

—THROUGH— UNH

—THIS WALL—

ARG! FAST!

SOMEWHERE IN HIS 18-YEAR-OLD BRAIN...

HE REALIZES THAT HIS CONFLICT IS MERELY A PIECE...

A MINISCULE PART...

...OF SOMETHING MUCH LARGER AND MORE... ***DEADLY!***

WHY?!

WHY DO THE HELLBENDERS NEED PARTICLE ACCELERATORS?

WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY NEED THEM FOR?

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE IT OUT!

OH, NO...

THEY... DON'T...

THEIR *MASTER* DOES!

MASON GRAVES! THE DRAGON

JOSEF MAJURAC!!

MEGALITH!

HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED YET?!!

YOU SHOULD HAVE LAIN DOWN AND DIED WHEN YOU WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE. HUMAN!!

TWICE YOU HAVE CHALLENGED ME AND MINE— AND TWICE YOU HAVE FAILED! *

* MEGALITH #0 AND ARMOR # 1 — KRIS

BUT, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD EXTEND MY GRATITUDE.

HUH? WHY?

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE *MORE* ACCELERATORS...!

UNTIL REM PULLED THE LOCATION OF THIS VAULT

—FROM *YOUR* MIND!

FROM... *MY* MIND...

I... HELPED YOU?

NO.....

KEEP HIM TALKING, MEG... HE'LL NEVER SCAN ME.

PLENTY OF TIMES, I'VE TAKEN DOWN...

...A MUTANT MANTIS...

...IN THE "WARS" ON HIVEWORLD...

...AND THEY'RE ALMOST THIS BIG.

THIS DRAGON MAY BE TOUGH TO TAKE IF YOU FACE HIM DOWN...

...BUT ONE GOOD SHOT TO HIS HEAD OR EYES...AND HE'S SPIDER-BAIT!

EEEYAHHHH!

WHOOPS!

TIME TO BOUNCE!

WHO?!

GET OFF!

TOO SLOW, EARTHER!

KNOW WHY THEY CALL ME *MITE*, DRAGON?!?

I CAN KEEP THIS UP ALL DAY...

'CAUSE I'M A REAL *PAIN* IN THE NECK!!

...SOONER OR LATER, YER GONNA *FALL!*

ARRR!

ARG!

LORD ARACHNIS!!

AH, THERE YOU ARE.

YOU MUST BE ONE OF THOSE *HYBRIDS*.

YOU SHOULD SIDE WITH ME...

WHEN MY PLAN BECOMES REALITY, IN BUT A FEW HOURS...

...YOU COULD RULE ALONGSIDE MY CHILDREN—

THE *HELLBENDERS!*

EAT THORNS, MUTANT!

WELL...

...A PITY.

NICE TRY, DRAGON...

...BUT I'VE BEEN BOUNCING OFF WALLS SINCE I COULD STAND!

MAJURAC?

GONE...

HUMMPH. NO MATTER.

I WOULD HAVE HAD TO WASTE MORE TIME KILLING HIM ANYWAY.

MAJURAC AND HIS FRIENDS NEVER REALLY PRESENTED A THREAT... A MILD ANNOYANCE, PERHAPS.

THERE'S NO WAY TO "FIGHT" THIS MONSTER.

...DOESN'T SEE ME...

IT'S ONE SHOT —WIN OR LOSE.

AND TIME HAS SHRUNK. MY ALLIES ARE BECOMING DESPERATE.

HEY, UGLY—

OVER HERE!!

HUH?

MEGALITH TIGHTENS HIS ARM...HIS FIST...

...UNTIL IT BECOMES A COCKED...

...WEAPON!

I HURT HIM—! MAYBE...

DIE!

ARG!

MEGALITH! ARE YOU—

SHUT UP!

THE DRAGON IS GETTING AWAY!

WITH THE ACCELERATORS!

YOU'VE GOTTA—

TWO... STORIES...

...UP...

...GOTTA...

...TWIST...

...ABSORB...

MADE IT!

I CAN HANDLE IT.

HIS BACK'S TURNED...

...I CAN HIT HIM WITH A FULL-FORCE GRAVITY BLAST—

...AND HE'LL CRUMBLE!

HA! CAUGHT YOU, EARTHER!

DROP THE BAG—

OR I'LL SPIN YOU INTO ORBIT!

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE HYBRID—

—OR I'LL BARBEQUE YOU!

NO!

I CAN'T GRAVITY THE FLAMES AWAY...

YAH!

MY ARM'S BURNING!

NO! HE'S... ESCAPING... ESCAPED.

SORRY, MEGALITH... HE BROKE MY CONCENTRATION.

GET BACK HERE, COWARD!

I'LL SLICE YA UP!

SO... WHAT DO WE DO NOW, MEGALITH?

WHAT DO WE DO...? NOW?

I...

.....

...DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.

I'M NOT SURE WE CAN DO... ANYTHING...

ANYMORE...

TOO LATE!!

USING THE ELEMENTAL ENERGY HE'S GATHERED, GAMMCRACK STRIKES WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH. FOR CONTAINED BEAMS OF MAGICAL ENERGY LASH OUT LIKE LASERS - EACH BEAM SPECIFICALLY ATTUNED TO THE SPECIAL PROPERTIES OF THE TARGET.

THE LIVING SPIRIT-- WHATEVER FORCE ANIMATES THE CREATURES -- IS DRIVEN OUT FORCEFULLY, BACK TO WHATEVER NAMELESS PLACE THEY CAME FROM.

THEY CRUMBLE -

-EVAPORATE-

- BURN OUT-

- BLOW AWAY-

- NOT DEAD, FOR THE WERE NEVER ALIVE.

SOON-

THE TIME HAS COME HYBRID.

SPEAK OF THAT WHICH OUR LIVES WERE RISKED FOR.

FIRST...

HERE IS YOUR ENERGY BACK.

I AM A MAN OF MY WORD.

AS I EXPECTED.

THE CORE OF MUTANT WINDS IS NEAR.

IT IS A PLACE KNOWN TO YOU AS A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. A GREAT EVIL WILL COME TO THIS PLACE -- TO STEAL THE CORE!

IF HE IS NOT STOPPED... THE DEATHWATCH WILL BE ACCELERATED!

THE CORE -- BURIED IN THE HEART OF A LIVE VOLCANO-

THE RADIATION FILLED MUTANT WINDS WILL BE BLOWN OVER THE ENTIRE PLANET SURFACE --

KILLING - ALL LIFE!

Plot & Layouts: **Neal Adams** Dialogue: **Peter Stone** Pencils & Inks: **Richard Bennett**
Colors: **Cory Adams** Lettering. **Ken Bruzenak** Cover Art **Neal Adams**

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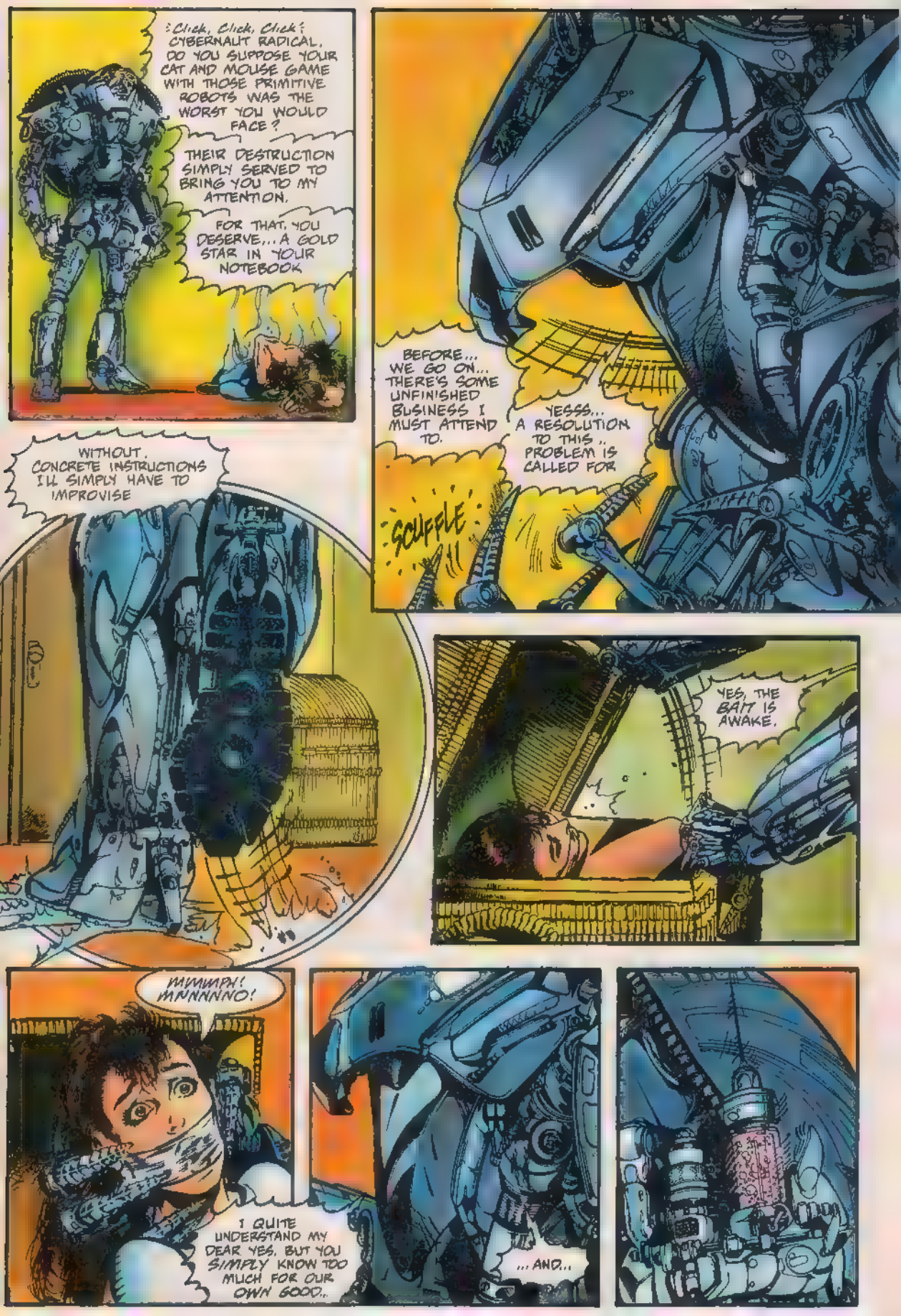
AGAIN THE DREAM TAUNTS ME...
...REVEALING THE DEATHWATCH 2000...
EH... A NEW WRINKLE?
BY THE THREE LIVES! SORCERY INVADES REALITY--
TRULY THE BORDERS ARE CRUMBLING!
DEMONS - AT PLAY? NO... UNDER TROLLS FROM BELOW WORLDS! WHAT IMPORT DOES THEIR VISION MEAN HERE IN MY REALM?
YIP
YUK YUK
CRITTER
HO, CREATURES - WHAT MACHINATIONS TICKLE YOUR MADDINGS? STAND ASIDE FOR SHAMAN'S EYE!
EEEYAH! THE BANE OF MAGIC!!

GET HIM.! KILL HIM.!
WHOOP WHOOP!
ASIDE, DEVAS...,
... I WOULD VIEW YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.
YOWP! YOWP!
EYAH.!
EAT HIS SOUL!
FOOLISH SHAMAN!
WHOOP!
YOWP!
YERK!
PASSION'S LITTLE PIGGIES!
CAN'T SEE.!
DIE.!
HEART'S MINE.!
I CLAIM EYES!
AND TONGUE!
WHOOP-WHOOP!
THE SAND DOES NOT CHALLENGE THE WAVES.!
RIK.
WHOOP?
YOW YOW YOW.
EEE YA-HA WHOOPS.
I HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR MISCHIEF, TROLL SPAWN.!
YOWP.
HUFF.!
I WILL SEE YOUR VISION.!
EYEE.!
YOWP.!
MERCIFUL GODDESS...!
NO.!!

HELL-BENT FOR DIE
SECTION
FFFFOK!

WOOOOSH!
WH--
UGH!
WHA'...HAPPENED? HEAD'S RINGIN'...
...ROBOT--IN THE MIRROR?...ATTACKED ME. LOOKED LIKE ROSIE?
NO!
NOT AGAIN! IT CAN'T BE TRUE ...MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME...
...COULD IT BE--MORE BAD INTERNAL PROGRAMMING?
SIMON...? DARLING?
ARE YOU ALIVE?
ROSIE? IT'S YOU!
YEAH, I'M ALIVE... BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE--?

..ROBOT?!
NO! NO NO NO! NOT ROSIE!
NOT YOU, TOO!!
THE HUNT IS OVER, RADICAL!
YOU'VE BEEN CORNERED--POOLED LIKE AN ANIMAL!
BUNNY IN THE HEADLIGHTS, RADICAL.
SHOOM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CYBERNAUT RADICAL, DO YOU SUPPOSE YOUR CAT AND MOUSE GAME WITH THOSE PRIMITIVE ROBOTS WAS THE WORST YOU WOULD FACE?
THEIR DESTRUCTION SIMPLY SERVED TO BRING YOU TO MY ATTENTION.
FOR THAT, YOU DESERVE... A GOLD STAR IN YOUR NOTEBOOK
BEFORE... WE GO ON... THERE'S SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS I MUST ATTEND TO.
YESSS... A RESOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS CALLED FOR
SCUPPLE
WITHOUT CONCRETE INSTRUCTIONS I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO IMPROVISE
YES, THE BAIT IS AWAKE.
MMMMPH! MNNNNNO!
I QUITE UNDERSTAND MY DEAR YES, BUT YOU SIMPLY KNOW TOO MUCH FOR OUR OWN GOOD..
... AND...

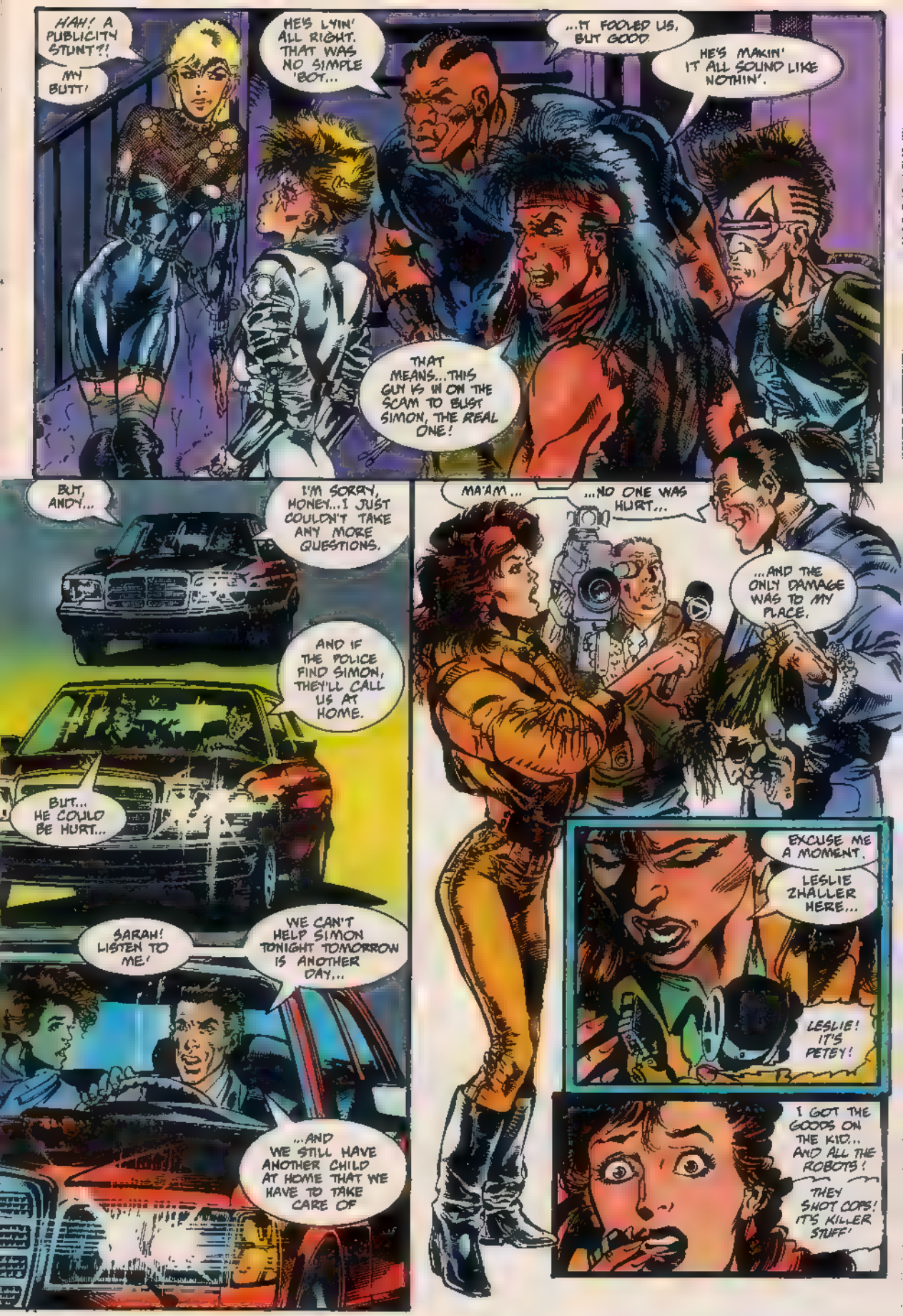
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
...WELL... YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF, I'M AFRAID.
HOLD STILL.
THIS IS...
...UNREAL!...
...AND BIG!
A ROBOT JUNKYARD, COURTESY OF MY FAVORITE TEENAGE REBEL!
AND I GOT IT ALL ON TAPE!
I WOULD'A BET IF I BOUGHT THAT KID SOME BREATHIN' ROOM HE COULD KICK THE TRANSISTORS OUTTA THESE TIN CANS.
AND HE DID IT...
SYSTEMS, kkkt... 75% PERCENT,... FUNCTIONAL... REPORT..
TRANSPORT VEH CLES HAVE BEEN WASTED!
LET'S ADD UP OUR RESOURCES, LOOKS PRETTY SHABBY!

ARE WE THREE?
NOT FULLY. I'M DOWNSYSTEMS BIG TIME.
YOU TWO DON'T LOOK SO GOOD EITHER
:KLIK: ALERT...
...LAW ENFORCERS, HUMAN. TWO VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES. AGAIN, TWO... STAY HUMAN.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. MY CIRCUITS ARE SPARKING.
BIKERS... LORD, THEY MUSTA DUMPED OFF THE WEST SIDE
AND THEY'RE STILL STANDIN'? DRAW YOUR WEAPON, MIKE I DON'T LIKE THIS.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, FOLKS! NO FAST MOVES!
BETTER RADIO FOR BACK-UP, LARRY.
RIGHT.
NEUTRALIZE HUMANS BEFORE THEY ALERT OTHERS.
DON'T KILL THEM... ALERT REAVER FOR A PICK-UP.
PUNT PUNT PUNT
AGG!
THUP THUP
I'M HIT.
FA-DAM

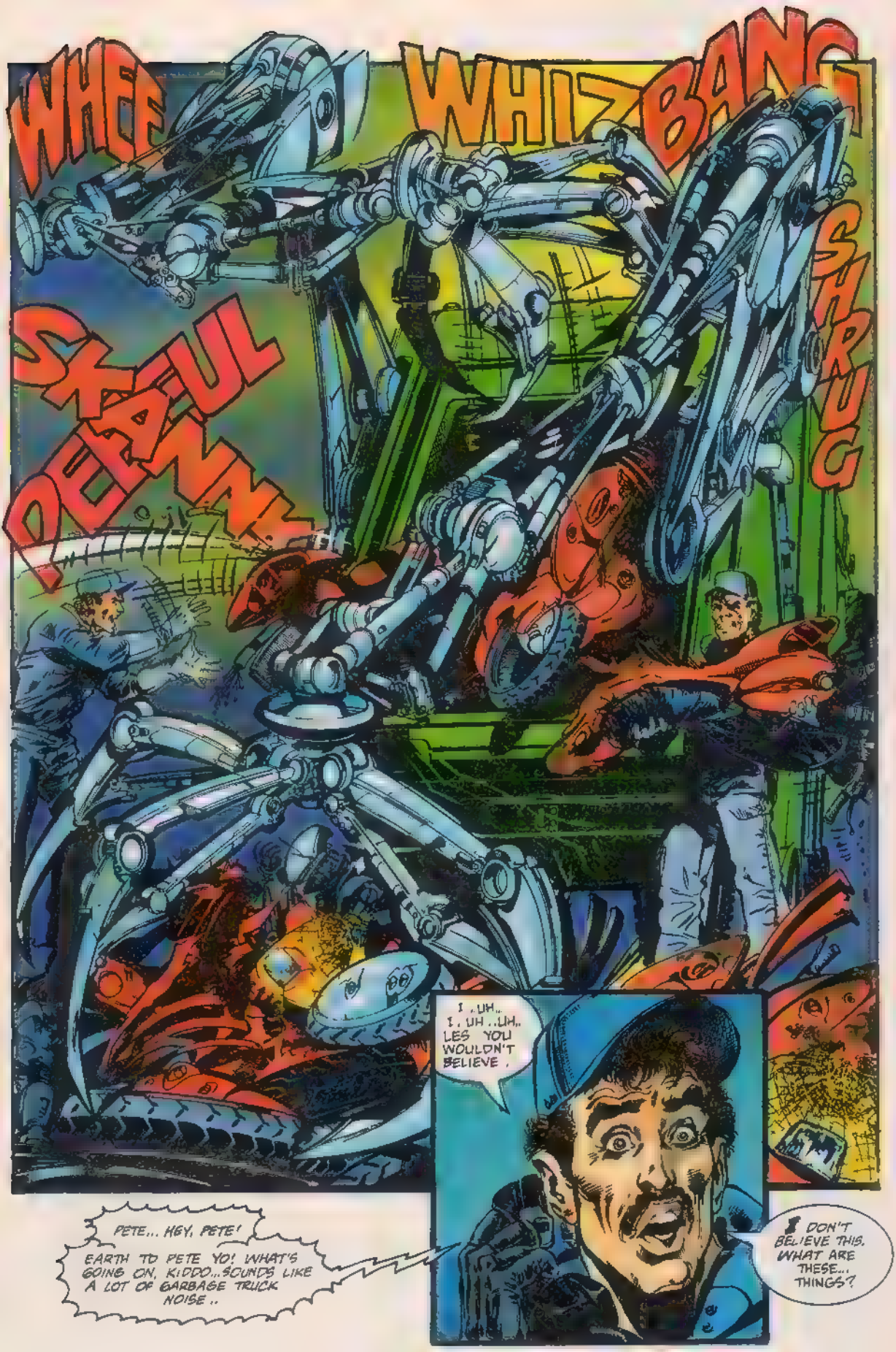
WHOOPS! WATCH IT, PETE...
...THOSE BABYS JUST CUT DOWN TWO COPS... YOU'D JUST BE AN AFTERTHOUGHT TO THEM, CAMERA JOCKEY.
I'D BETTER STAY OUT OF SIGHT.
FUNNY...IT... ACTUALLY LOOKED LIKED THOSE COPS WERE DARTED RATHER THAN SHOT.
THREAT TERMINATED. BUT WE ARE STILL WITHOUT WHEELS
NO PROBLEMO, DUDE. THE COPS HAVE KINDLY PROVIDED US WITH TWO RIGHTEOUS CHOPPERS
BUT THIS JOE IS RADICALLY DYSFUNCTIONAL, AND...
...UNLESS WE CAN ACQUIRE A THIRD VEHICLE...
YES... YOU HAVE BECOME A LIABILITY!
DISASSOCIATION WOULD BE THE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE OPTION TO REPAIR AND OVERHAUL.
DISASSOCIATION WOULD ALSO EXPEDITE TRANSPORT.
AGREED!
SHOOM

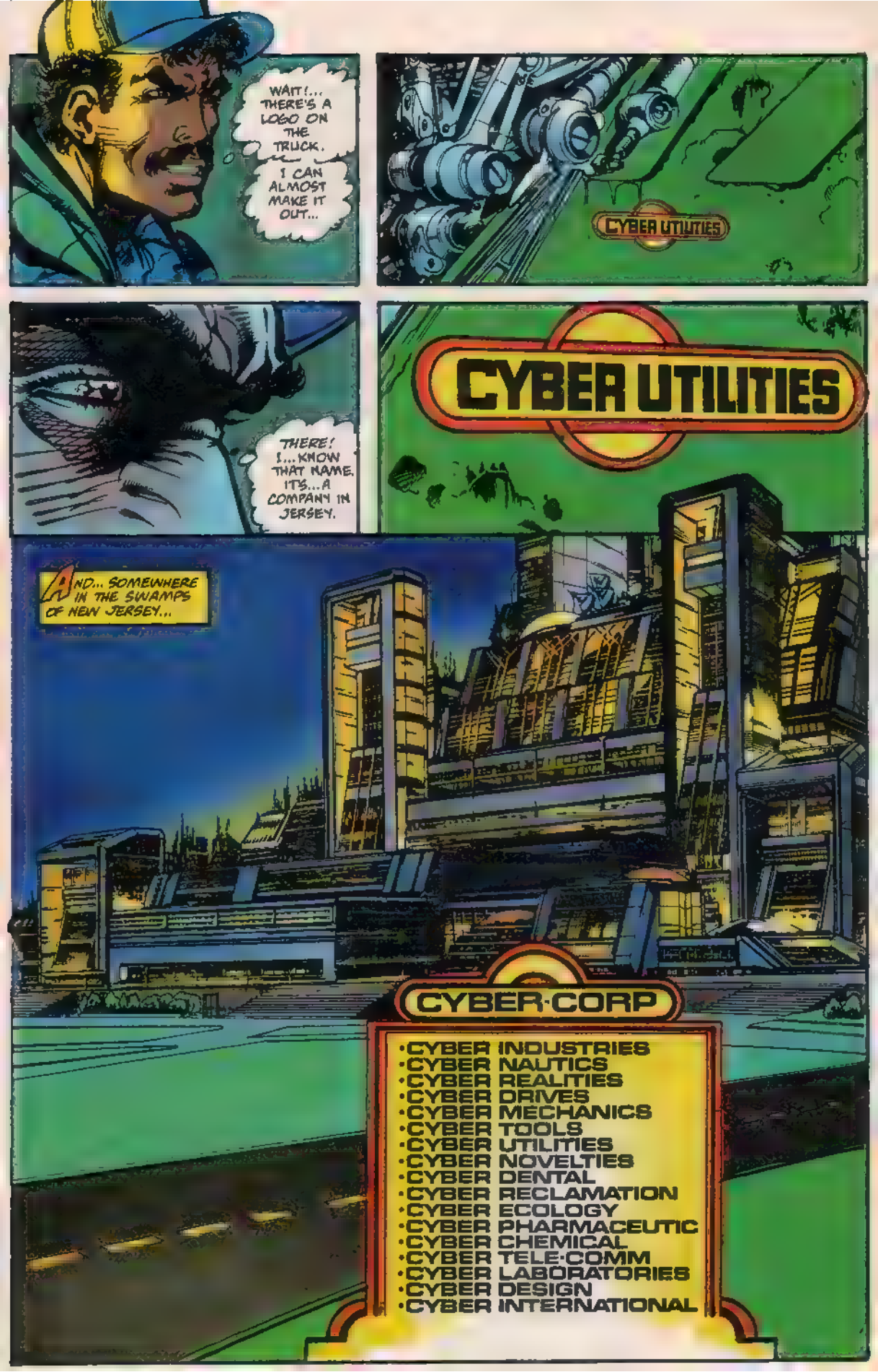
WASTIN' ONE OF THEIR OWN... TALK ABOUT EFFICIENT.
GO ON, CHUMPS...
...RUN AWAY BUT I'M GONNA CATCH YOU THIS TIME.
AND YOU'RE GONNA BE ON THE 11 O'CLOCK NEWS.
SENSORS VERIFY ANOTHER HUMAN! WITH A RECORDING DEVICE! TARGET CAMERA... FIRE!
NO-YOU-DON'T-PUG-UGLY!
TAG--SUCKER! SEE YA ON AMERICA'S STUPIDEST HOME VIDEOS!
MRS. STAVEY DIDN'T RAISE NO WUSSIE PUNK. ROBOTS, I'M GONNA NAIL YOU ALL!
BUT DESPITE MY CHARMING PERSONALITY, I'M NO REPORTER.
I NEED A BRAIN LIKE LESLIE'S TO PUT THIS TOGETHER.
I'LL FIND A PAY PHONE... CALL HER BEEPER... AND WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS!

THIS TIME I GOT THE TAPE... I GOT THE CAMERA...
I GOT ALL THE GOODS
HUH? SHADOW?
HOLY-MOTHER-OF-GOD!!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE "THE METAL UNDERGROUND," THE HEAVY METAL NIGHT CLUB..
ONCE AGAIN, I APOLOGIZE FOR CREATING SUCH A FUSS... BUT THIS WAS ALL A PUBLICITY STUNT.
...DESIGNED TO CREATE ONE OF THE GREATEST STAGE SHOWS EVER DONE I THINK WE SUCCEEDED...
...MAYBE TOO WELL. PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS REAL
SEE?!
THIS ISN'T A HUMAN-BEING... JUST AN... ANIMA-TRONIC. I SUPPOSE IT WAS A MISTAKE TO MAKE IT SO LIFE-LIKE.
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PANIC YOU CREATED?
WITH ALL THE RECENT INJURIES AT CONCERTS... DON'T YOU THINK YOU TOOK A HUGE RISK?
AND ENDANGERED MANY HUMAN LIVES?


HAH! A PUBLICITY STUNT?!
MY BUTT!
HE'S LYIN' ALL RIGHT. THAT WAS NO SIMPLE 'BOT...
...IT FOOLED US, BUT GOOD.
HE'S MAKIN' IT ALL SOUND LIKE NOTHIN'.
THAT MEANS...THIS GUY IS IN ON THE SCAM TO BUST SIMON, THE REAL ONE!
BUT, ANDY...
I'M SORRY, HONEY...I JUST COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE QUESTIONS.
AND IF THE POLICE FIND SIMON, THEY'LL CALL US AT HOME.
BUT... HE COULD BE HURT...
SARAH! LISTEN TO ME!
WE CAN'T HELP SIMON TONIGHT TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY...
...AND WE STILL HAVE ANOTHER CHILD AT HOME THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF
MA'AM...
...NO ONE WAS HURT...
...AND THE ONLY DAMAGE WAS TO MY PLACE.
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.
LESLIE ZHALLER HERE...
LESLIE! IT'S PETEY!
I GOT THE GOODS ON THE KID... AND ALL THE ROBOTS!
THEY SHOT COPS! IT'S KILLER STUFF!

I'M JUST OFF THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY, GET YER CUTE BUTT DOWN HERE, FAST!
HANG ON A SECOND, PETEY. YOU'RE STILL NON-COMPUS-PIMENTO WITH OUR PRODUCER AT THE STATION... I'M BRINGING KARL!
SCREW THAT SMARMY BEAURACRAT! I SAY WE SELL THIS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
THIS IS HISTORY-MAKING STUFF, KIDDO.
IF WYNN DOESN'T WANT IT...
HUH? HOLD A SECOND, LEZ...
GOT SOME NOISE HERE...
BRUM-BRUM-RUMM
HUH? A GARBAGE TRUCK?? OH, BROTHER!
YA GOTTA SEE THIS, KID...
...THOSE POOR GARBAGE MEN ARE IN FOR A HUGE SHOCK. I SHOULD GET OUT MY CAMERA... SELL THIS TO AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS.


WHEE
WHIZ BANG
SHRUG
SKREEAUL
I . UH . .
I . UH . . UH . .
LES YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE .
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS. WHAT ARE THESE... THINGS?
PETE... HEY, PETE!
EARTH TO PETE YO! WHAT'S GOING ON, KIDDO...SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF GARBAGE TRUCK NOISE . .


WAIT!... THERE'S A LOGO ON THE TRUCK.
I CAN ALMOST MAKE IT OUT...
CYBER UTILITIES
THERE! I... KNOW THAT NAME. IT'S... A COMPANY IN JERSEY.
CYBER UTILITIES
AND... SOMEWHERE IN THE SWAMPS OF NEW JERSEY...
CYBER·CORP
·CYBER INDUSTRIES
·CYBER NAUTICS
·CYBER REALITIES
·CYBER DRIVES
·CYBER MECHANICS
·CYBER TOOLS
·CYBER UTILITIES
·CYBER NOVELTIES
·CYBER DENTAL
·CYBER RECLAMATION
·CYBER ECOLOGY
·CYBER PHARMACEUTIC
·CYBER CHEMICAL
·CYBER TELE·COMM
·CYBER LABORATORIES
·CYBER DESIGN
·CYBER INTERNATIONAL

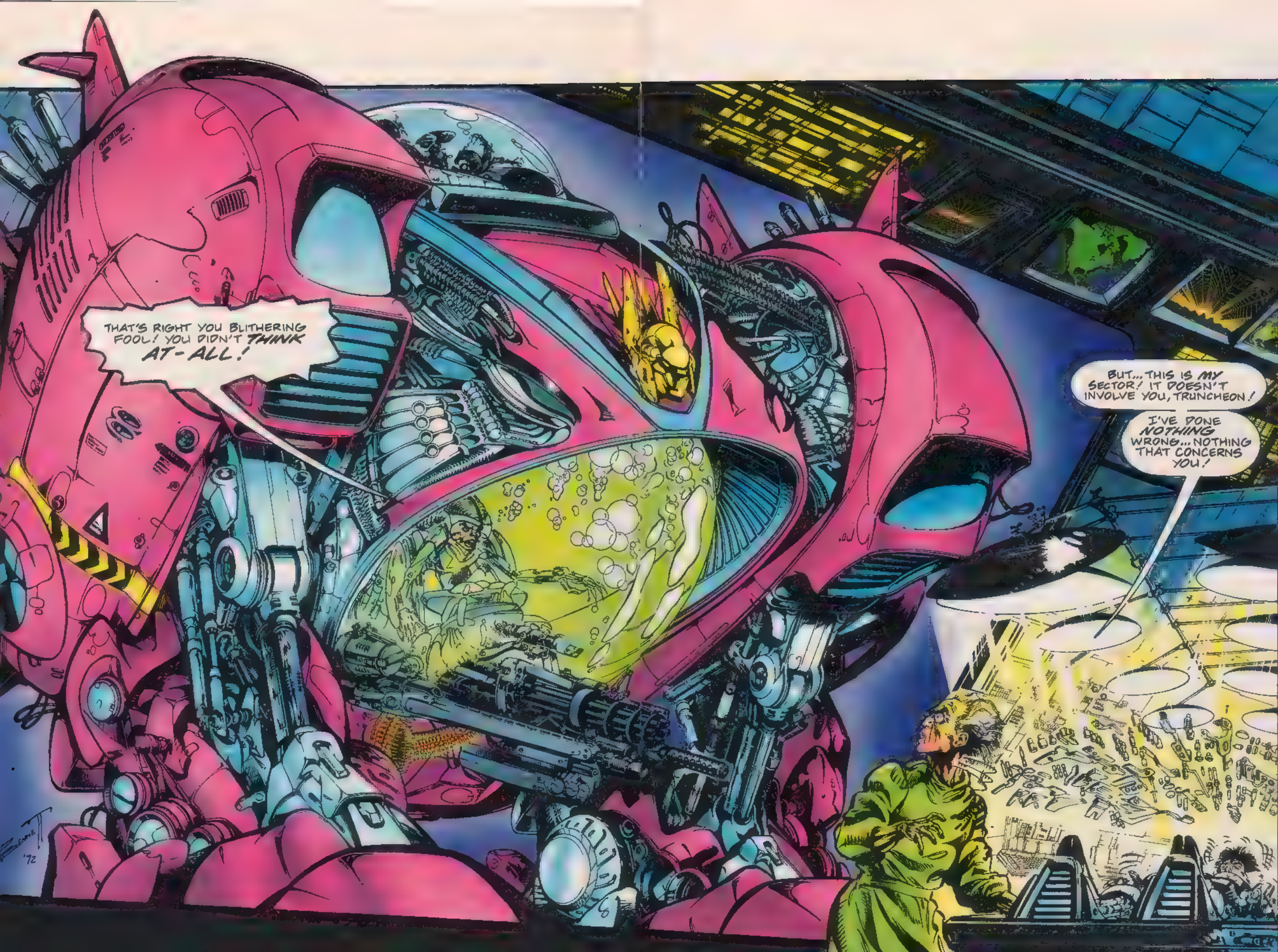
THIS...IS BUILDING THIRTEEN. ONE OF FOUR RESEARCH AND DESIGN CENTERS OF THE CYBERDYNE ARM OF CYBERCORP ONCE... ONE OF THE LARGEST BUILDINGS IN THE COMPOUND... NOW OVERSHADOWED BY LARGER AND LARGER MONOLITHS.
INSIDE THIS MONUMENT TO TECHNOLOGY, THE MACHINES HAVE REACHED A NEW LEVEL OF...
.INTELLIGENCE
AND WITH INTELLIGENCE... CURIOSITY!
THE RADICAL IS IN THE "HOUSE"?
HOW? AFTER THE LAST REPORT...
THE HELL-CYCLE AND THE REAVER CAPTURED HIM...
..OUTSIDE... IN THE WORLD!
NEGATIVE! IT WAS NOT REAVER OR THE HELL-CYCLES THAT BROUGHT THE RADICAL DOWN.
THE RADICAL DECIMATED THE HELL-CYCLES.
T'WAS HUNTER BROUGHT HIM DOWN BY IMITATING A HUMAN
THE HUMAN SIDE OF HIS PROGRAMMING WAS HIS WEAKNESS. THEN AND NOW.
THE "THEORY" WAS WRONG. HUMANITY BREEDS WEAKNESS.
NEGATIVE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN EVIDENT THAT THE MAINFRAME PROGRAMMING WAS UNSTABLE.
YOUR POINT IS WELL TAKEN

NEARBY... IN THE CENTRAL OPERATING THEATER OF BUILDING THIRTEEN...
..PROFESSOR SHERODUS VACCA BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF. A FEW MORE STEPS, AND HIS WORST ERROR WILL BE HIDDEN... FOREVER.
SCANNING MAIN C.P.U. ... ALL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL.
AWG-9B FIRE CONTROL RADAR DEACTIVATED.
M61AD 30mm INTERNAL CANNONS SAFETY LOCKED.
WAKE HIM UP.
RESTORING MAIN POWER UNIT...
HUH? WH-WH-WHAT?
ROSIE...?
NO, RADICAL! NOT ROSIE!
YOU'VE COME HOME TO YOUR FAMILY... AND WE'RE GOING TO REPAIR ALL OF YOUR... LITTLE IMPERFECTIONS.
TECHS... ACTIVATE THE HOLDING FIELD!

NOO
OONO
NONOO
NOOO
NOOOO
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
AHEM...

MUCH, MUCH BETTER. AHH... THE SOOTHING QUIET.
TSK. TSK. HOW DID YOU GO SO WRONG, MY LITTLE RADICAL?
YOU NEARLY DESTROYED MY REPUTATION, RADICAL...
...AND WHY?
WHY?
WHY?!
BECAUSE... BE-CAUSE!...
MY WHOLE THESIS... MY WHOLE THEORY... IS DOWN THE DRAIN!
YOU... MESSED ME UP, RADICAL. YOU MUST BE... UN-DONE.
YOU CAN'T...
OUCH!
Uuuph... THAT, KURT... ANYWAY...
...YOU'VE DERAILED MY WORK, CYBER-RADICAL. MY REPUTATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE-IN-THE-SHADE IF I HAD SUCCEEDED WITH YOU... BUT NOOOOOO!
CYBERNAUG ADVANC REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE DIRECTIVE
AND...
...DO YOU THINK I'M TAKING THIS SITTING DOWN, YOU FAILURE?
NO WAY, JOSE! NOBODY IN THIS CORPORATION WILL EVER HEAR ABOUT YOU. NOT LIKE THIS!
WHEN YOU'RE FIXED, RADICAL! THAT'S WHEN I'LL SHOW YOU TO THEM!

WHEN YOU'RE A SUCCESSFUL CYBERNAUT! NOT A FAILED CYBER-RADICAL!
YOU ARE THE MONUMENTAL FAILURE OF MY LIFE! CURSE YOU RADICAL!
I COULD HAVE BEEN UNDONE!
THIS BRAIN-DRAIN IS TOTALLY WHACKED!
I CAN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S RAVING ABOUT!
NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS BAD, BAD, BAD RADICAL?...CAN'T FIX YOU...
YOU'RE SIMPLY TOO, TOO RADICAL, BOY. BUT HECK, YOU NEED FIXIN' SOOO VERY BADLY... POOR THING..
AWWWW.
HOW 'BOUT WE MAKE YOU A CYBER-NORMAL!
AND...JUST WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU BE DOING IN THIS..THIS CYBER-NAUT DEPARTMENTAL CENTER, PROFESSOR YACCA?
UHHHH...I... UH... WELL... NO... NOTHING ELSE... JUST...


THAT'S RIGHT YOU BLITHERING FOOL! YOU DIDN'T THINK AT-ALL!
BUT... THIS IS MY SECTOR! IT DOESN'T INVOLVE YOU, TRUNCHEON!
I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG... NOTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU!

CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN!
I'M SIMPLY CHECKING IN... I'VE BEEN MONITORING SOME CURIOUS REPORTS FROM OUR URBAN PARA-MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SECTORS.
I BELIEVE IT CONCERNED THAT CYBER-NAUT, SHERODUS.
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR CYBERNAUT?
THAT... CYBERNAUT?
...IT'S NOTHING... NOTHING AT ALL... JUST... A MISTAKE...
...A... GOOF..
DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME, SHERODUS! MY SENSORS INDICATE THAT IT'S SOME SORT OF SENTIENT BEING.
IT'S ALIVE... LIKE YOU... LIKE ME!
BUT... WE KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE..DON'T WE, SHERODUS?
SENTIENT? ALIVE?
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT!
OF COURSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... AND WE BOTH DO KNOW IT! THIS IS A SIMPLE CYBERNAUT...
...AN EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED. THAT'S ALL.

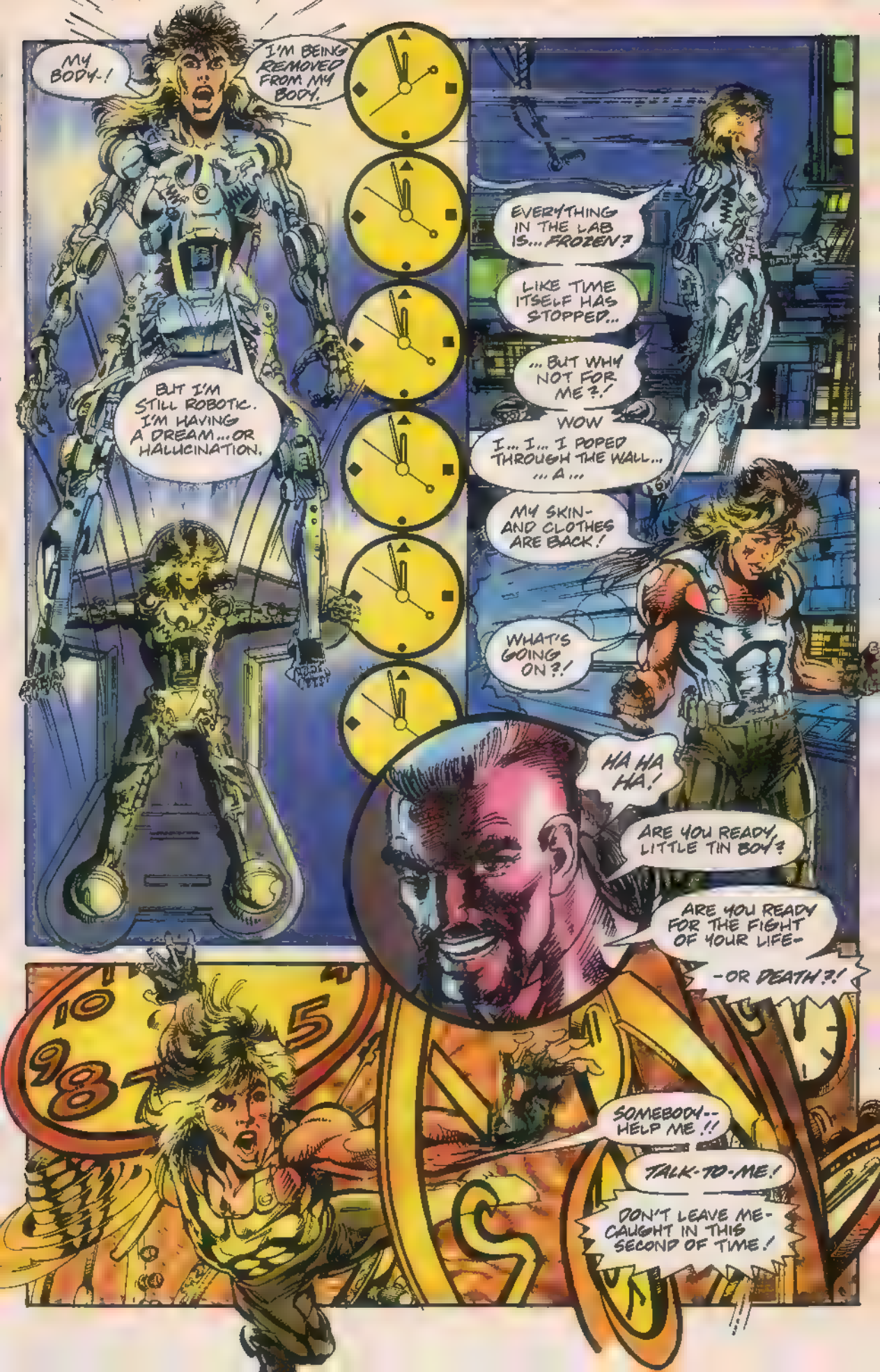
THAT IS A LIE!
YOU POMPOUS, ARROGANT FREAK! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS? NOTHING!
STAY OUT OF MY BUSINESS! YOU ARE...AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN... A NOSEY BUREAUCRAT!
AND YOU, MY BROTHER, ARE A GUINEA PIG FOR STUPID EXPERIMENTS.
MOST SCIENTISTS HAVE THE BASIC INTELLIGENCE TO EXPERIMENT...
...ON SOMEONE ELSE!
DID HE SAY... BROTHER?
Uh-Oh!
AND YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE CAUGHT IN A BLATANT LIE!
TECHNICIANS! WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THIS PROJECT?
SKKKRRT...
NEGATIVE RESPONSE.
Uhh... QUESTION DEFIES PROGRAMMING.
THIS UNIT IS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PROJECT...
THIS IS AN EXPERIMENT! NOTHING MORE!

AN EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED!
AND MUST BE... UHH... DESTROYED!
DESTROYED!
NONONONO NONONONO!
MY BODY!
TECHS!
STOP THAT LUNATIC!
NOW!
LET-ME-GO! HE'S A DANGEROUS MENACE!
AFFIRMATIVE! SUBDUE THE REAVER!
HE COULD DESTROY US ALL!
LET GO!!

HE'S A BROKEN MACHINE!...YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME! HE CAN DO THINGS YOU CAN'T IMAGINE!
STUPID BROTHER...
YOU'VE BECOME A RAVING MADMAN,
I GAVE YOU COMMAND OF THIS SECTOR BECAUSE YOU'RE MY BROTHER...AND BECAUSE YOUR OWN EXPERIMENTS GAVE YOU AN ENLARGED BRAIN.
BUT THE SIDE EFFECTS GAVE YOU AN UNSTABLE EMOTIONAL-CHEMICAL RESPONSE THAT HAS DESTROYED YOUR SANITY!
AND THREATENS ALL OF CYBER-CORP!
THIS IS GETTIN' TOO WEIRD FOR ME...
.. OR, AS VAUGHN BODE MIGHT SAY...
"...TONIGHT I GONNA ESCAPE!"

AT THE SAME MOMENT...
THE VISION... HAS BECOME REALITY. PUSHED FORWARD BY... AN OUTSIDE AGENT.
TO PREVENT DEATHWATCH A SINGLE...
...TOOL...
...MUST BE LOCATED AND CONTROLLED.
MEGALITH-AN ABLE CHAMPION... BUT HE LACKS FOCUS.
EASILY REMINDED WITH A... "TALK."
ARMOR-A WARRIOR WHO LEADS MANY OTHERS.
LEFT ALONE...
HE WILL FIND A PATH...
SAMUREE.
A PAWN YET TO BE PLAYED.
SCARLET AND SILVER STREAK.
ALLIED WITH ARMOR THEIR ROLL IS SET.
ALL WILL AFFECT THE OUTCOME... WITHOUT MY GUIDANCE.
BUT THIS ONE... SIMON PEAKE.
A PRODIGEOUS TALENT...LOST TO ME BECAUSE OF HIS SITUATION.
YET-- HE IS ... POTENTIAL AND POSSESSES UNKNOWN STRENGTHS.
PERHAPS... IF TESTED.
MUST LOCATE.
BUT HIS TIME LINE MUST REMAIN FOCUSSED...
...UNAFFECTED BY ANY RANDOM FACTORS.
HIS ABILITIES ARE... SO RAW.

AHHHHH... CLARITY.
THE TRAP, REVEALING THE TRUTH- BUT FORCING HIM TO...
FALSE ESCAPE, WHERE HE IS HERALDED TO...
THE 'TOON.' WHO INITIATES...
THE TEST.
EXCELLENT.
PREPARE CYBERNAUT RADICAL--
YOU ARE MINE.
YOU ARE, THE WORLDS.


MY BODY-!
I'M BEING REMOVED FROM MY BODY.
BUT I'M STILL ROBOTIC. I'M HAVING A DREAM...OR HALLUCINATION.
EVERYTHING IN THE LAB IS... FROZEN?
LIKE TIME ITSELF HAS STOPPED..
...BUT WHY NOT FOR ME?!
WOW
I... I... I POPED THROUGH THE WALL... ...A...
MY SKIN- AND CLOTHES ARE BACK!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HA HA HA!
ARE YOU READY, LITTLE TIN BOY?
ARE YOU READY FOR THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE-
-OR DEATH?!
SOMEBODY-- HELP ME!!
TALK-TO-ME!
DON'T LEAVE ME- CAUGHT IN THIS SECOND OF TIME!

Plot Neal Adams Story Peter Stone Pencils pgs 1-12 Dwayne Turner pgs 13-26 Ernesto Infante pgs Saichan & Crusty Bunkers
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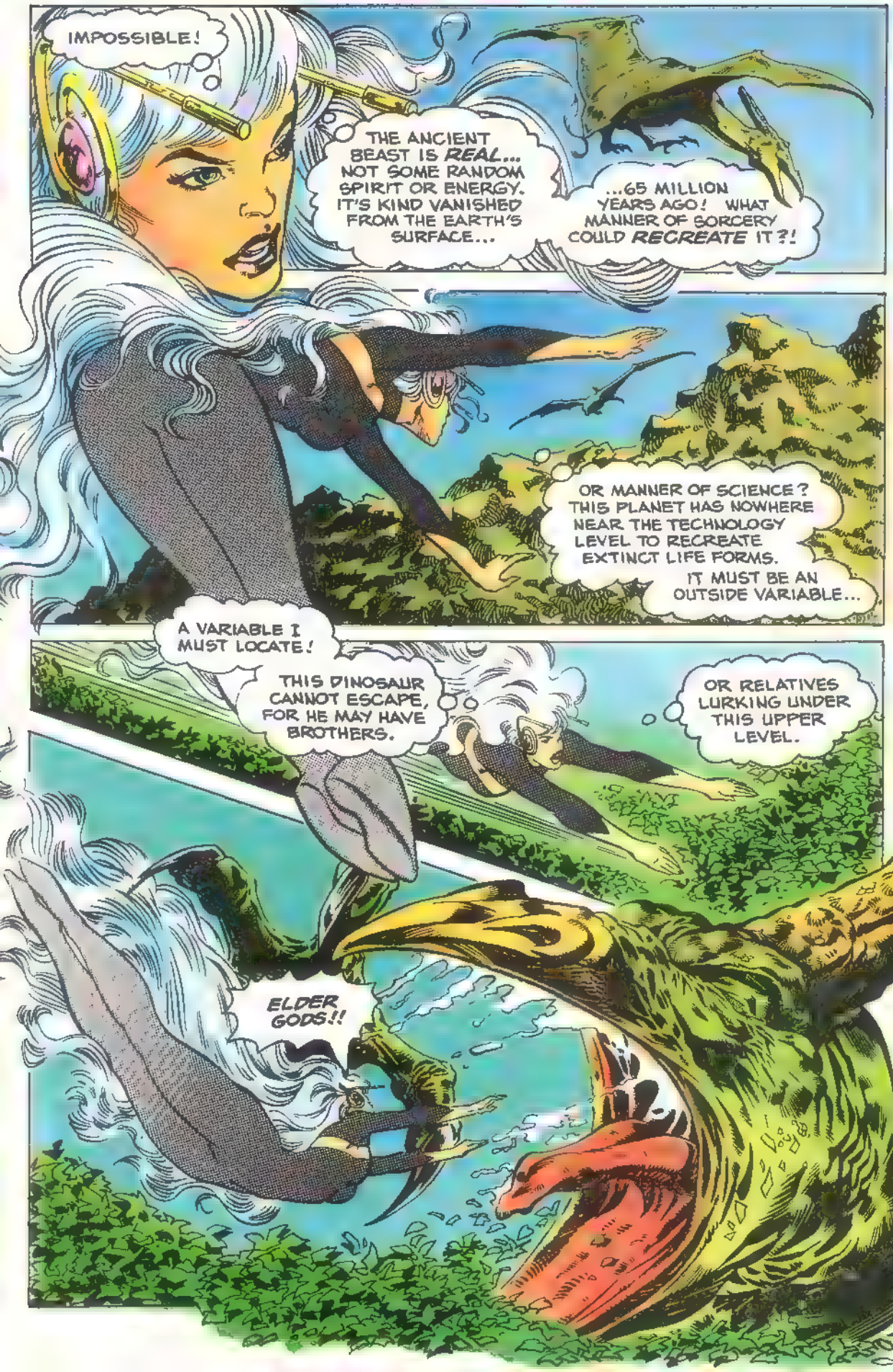
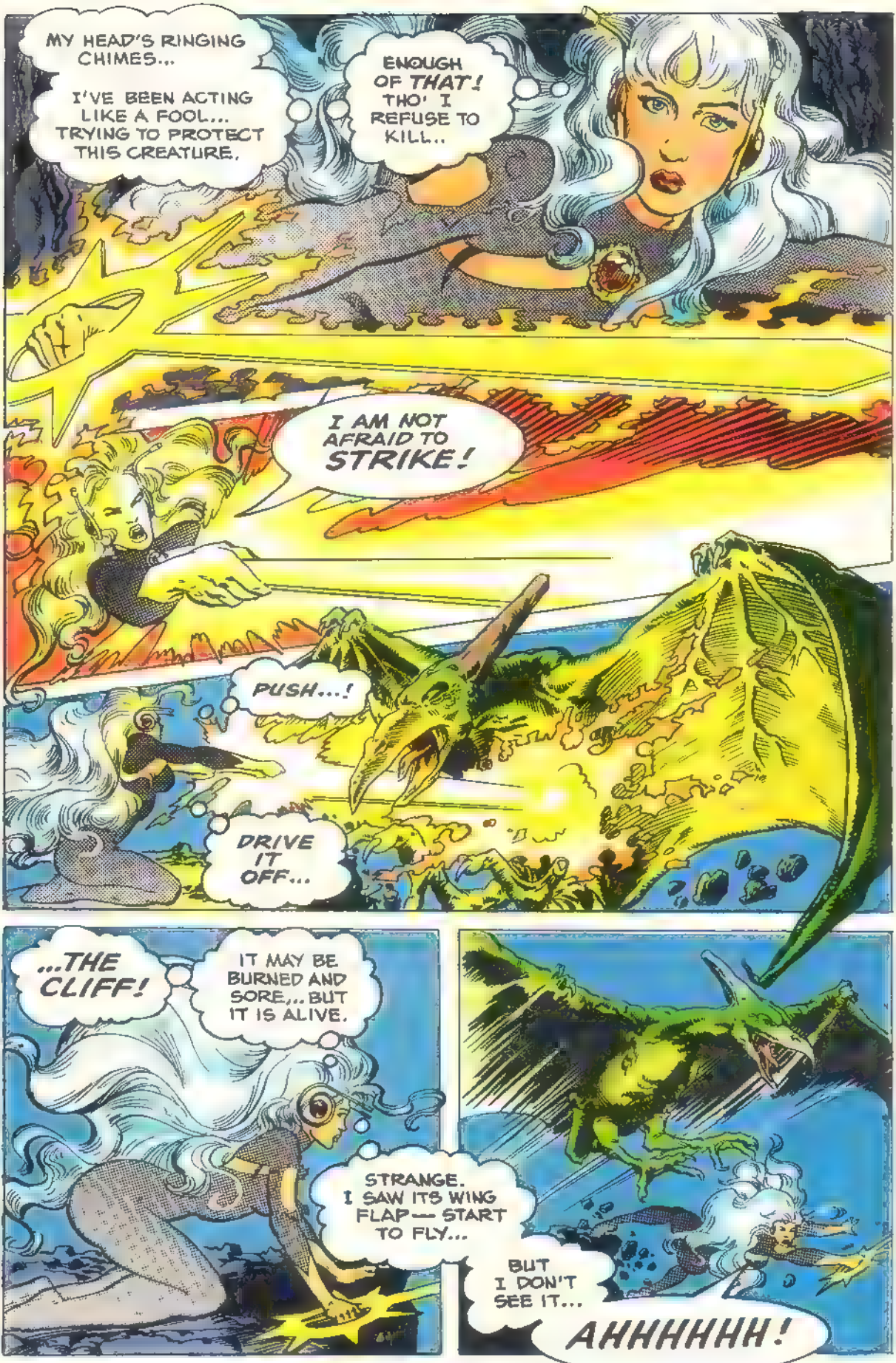
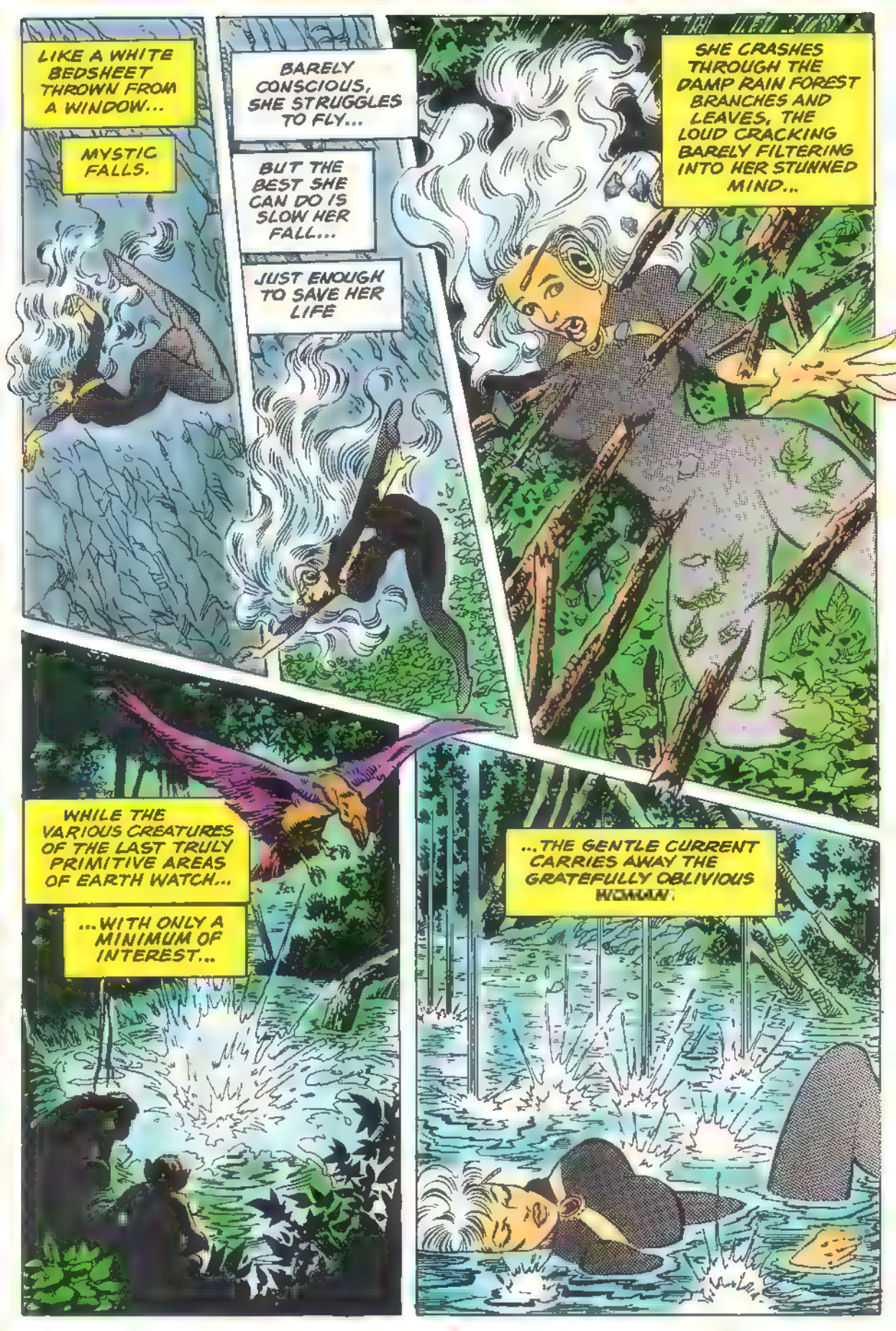
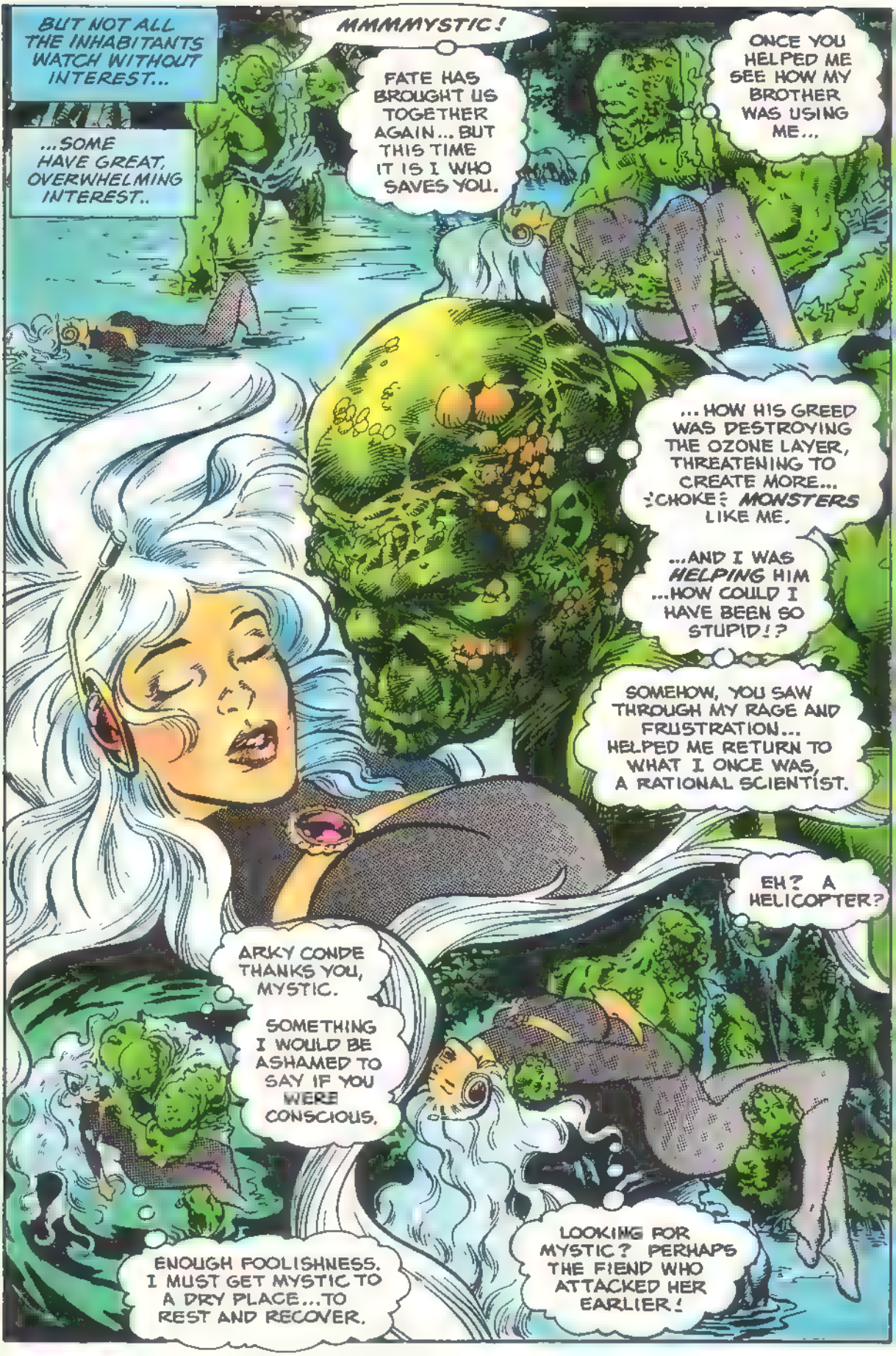

IMPOSSIBLE!
THE ANCIENT BEAST IS REAL... NOT SOME RANDOM SPIRIT OR ENERGY. IT'S KIND VANISHED FROM THE EARTH'S SURFACE...
...65 MILLION YEARS AGO! WHAT MANNER OF SORCERY COULD RECREATE IT?!
OR MANNER OF SCIENCE? THIS PLANET HAS NOWHERE NEAR THE TECHNOLOGY LEVEL TO RECREATE EXTINCT LIFE FORMS. IT MUST BE AN OUTSIDE VARIABLE...
A VARIABLE I MUST LOCATE!
THIS DINOSAUR CANNOT ESCAPE, FOR HE MAY HAVE BROTHERS.
OR RELATIVES LURKING UNDER THIS UPPER LEVEL.
ELDER GODS!!

UNH!
THREE TONS OF MUSCLE AND BONE PROPEL THE GLANCING BLOW...
...THAT GRAZES THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN'S HEAD...
...MAKING ALL HER ELEMENTAL POWER AND HER ALMOST-PRECOGNITIVE INTELLIGENCE...
...USELESS.
CAN'T BREATHE... CRUSHING MY CHEST... BUT IT'S NOT TIGHTENING...
...JUST CARRYING ME... UP... HIGHER...
AIR'S GETTING THIN...
OH, NO...
...IT'S TAKING ME TO A PEAK...
...TO EAT ME!

I SEE BONES... THIS MUST BE ITS LAIR...
ANY SECOND...
...IT'LL DROP ME TO GET A BETTER GRIP. YES!
ENERGY CONVERGES SUDDENLY...
...AND...
MY SWORD!
CAN'T HURT IT...
...IT'S STILL AN INNOCENT CREATURE... JUST SURVIVING...
MY ARM!
IT KNEW THE SWORD WAS A THREAT...
...AND TWARTED IT!
HUARG!


MY HEAD'S RINGING CHIMES...
I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A FOOL... TRYING TO PROTECT THIS CREATURE.
ENOUGH OF THAT! THO' I REFUSE TO KILL..
I AM NOT AFRAID TO STRIKE!
PUSH...!
DRIVE IT OFF...
...THE CLIFF!
IT MAY BE BURNED AND SORE,.. BUT IT IS ALIVE.
STRANGE. I SAW ITS WING FLAP— START TO FLY...
BUT I DON'T SEE IT...
AHHHHHH!


LIKE A WHITE BEDSHEET THROWN FROM A WINDOW...
MYSTIC FALLS.
BARELY CONSCIOUS, SHE STRUGGLES TO FLY...
BUT THE BEST SHE CAN DO IS SLOW HER FALL...
JUST ENOUGH TO SAVE HER LIFE
SHE CRASHES THROUGH THE DAMP RAIN FOREST BRANCHES AND LEAVES, THE LOUD CRACKING BARELY FILTERING INTO HER STUNNED MIND...
WHILE THE VARIOUS CREATURES OF THE LAST TRULY PRIMITIVE AREAS OF EARTH WATCH...
...WITH ONLY A MINIMUM OF INTEREST...
...THE GENTLE CURRENT CARRIES AWAY THE GRATEFULLY OBLIVIOUS WOMAN!

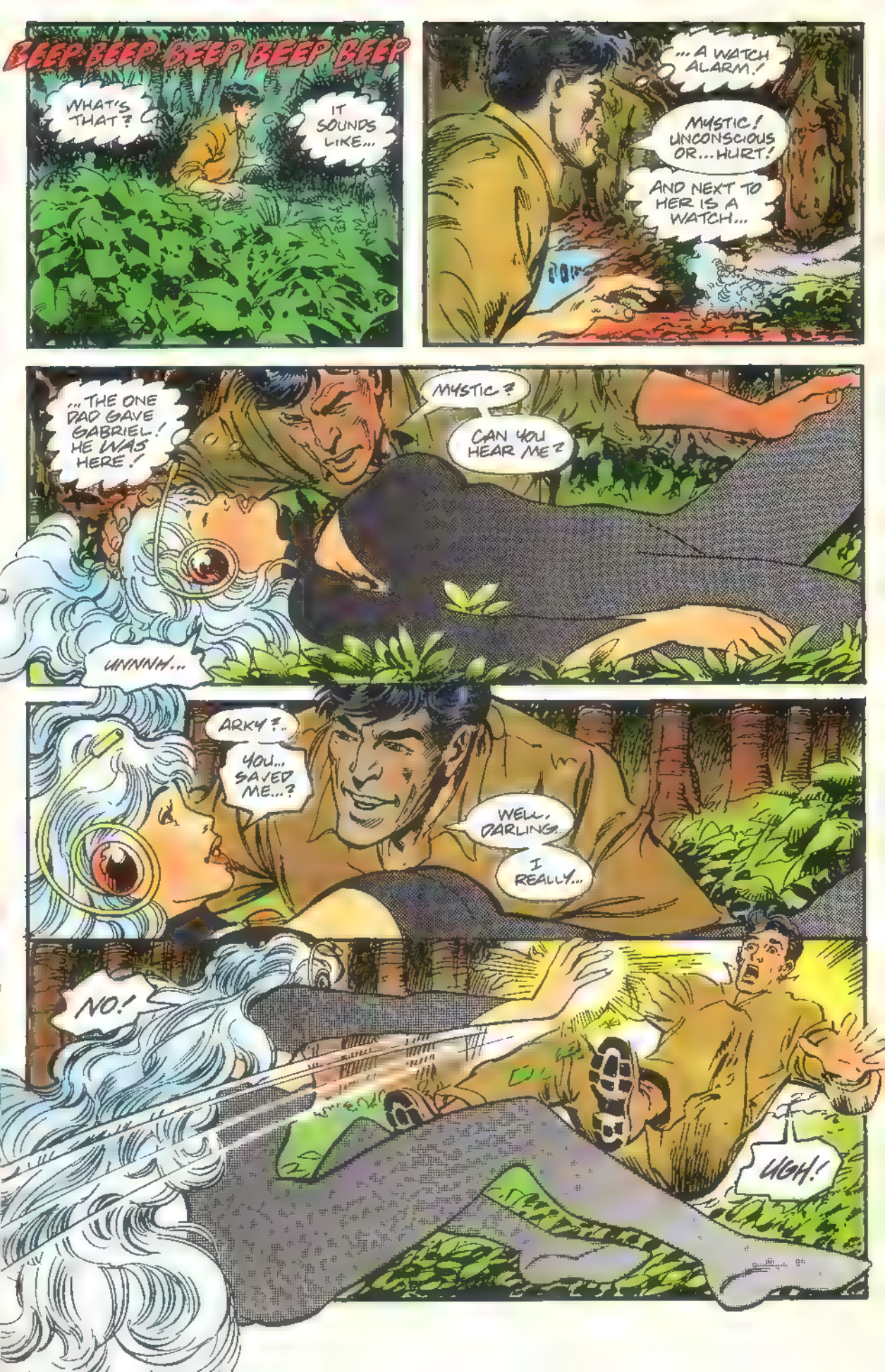

BUT NOT ALL THE INHABITANTS WATCH WITHOUT INTEREST...
...SOME HAVE GREAT, OVERWHELMING INTEREST..
MMMMYSTIC!
FATE HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER AGAIN... BUT THIS TIME IT IS I WHO SAVES YOU.
ONCE YOU HELPED ME SEE HOW MY BROTHER WAS USING ME...
...HOW HIS GREED WAS DESTROYING THE OZONE LAYER, THREATENING TO CREATE MORE... :CHOKE: MONSTERS LIKE ME.
...AND I WAS HELPING HIM ...HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID!?
SOMEHOW, YOU SAW THROUGH MY RAGE AND FRUSTRATION... HELPED ME RETURN TO WHAT I ONCE WAS, A RATIONAL SCIENTIST.
EH? A HELICOPTER?
ARKY CONDE THANKS YOU, MYSTIC.
SOMETHING I WOULD BE ASHAMED TO SAY IF YOU WERE CONSCIOUS.
ENOUGH FOOLISHNESS. I MUST GET MYSTIC TO A DRY PLACE...TO REST AND RECOVER.
LOOKING FOR MYSTIC? PERHAPS THE FIEND WHO ATTACKED HER EARLIER!

MY HOME... A LONELY CAVE...
...BUT SHE'LL BE SAFE HERE. AND I'LL NEVER LEAVE UNTIL SHE IS WELL.
MY BROTHER BETRAYED THIS BEAUTIFUL LADY... BETRAYED HER LOVE. I'LL SHOW HER WHAT TRUE LOYALTY IS.
CONDE!
WHO ?
I AM KNOWN AS... DEVILSPAWN!! AND I WOULD FIGHT YOU—
—IF YOU WILL NOT COME WITH ME! MY CAUSE... AND CURSE... IS TO SAVE THIS PLANET FROM...
DEATHWATCH 2000

WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CREATURE?
THE COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF THE OZONE LAYER IN A MATTER OF DAYS...
LEAVING THE SURFACE UNPROTECTED TO THE SUN'S DEADLY ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS...
IMAGINE, GABRIEL CONDE... ALL OF HUMANITY CURSED WITH RADIATION SICKNESS...
...JUST LIKE YOU.
I LEAD THE HYBRIDS IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STOP THAT APOCALYPSE.
WILL YOU AID US...?
YOU.. BETTER NOT BE LYING, DEVIL...
I WILL HELP...
NEVER
BUT I WILL NOT ABANDON MS. MYSTIC.
ABOVE...
ARKY CONDE, ENTREPRENEUR STEADFAST CAPITALIST ONCE-PARAMOUR OF MS. MYSTIC...
PILOT! HOLD IT RIGHT HERE!
...AND BROTHER OF GABRIEL CONDE, CIRCLES IN HIS PRIVATE HELICOPTER.
I SAW SOMETHING MOVE DOWN THERE!

IT MUST BE MY BROTHER!
I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM...
...AND APOLOGIZE!
GOOD LORD!
WHAT'S THAT?
WHATEVER IT IS, THOSE GIANT BIRDS ARE CHASING IT!
WAIT-- GIANT BIRDS?!
EVASIVE ACTION!
WE CAN'T! THE BOSS IS DOWN THERE!
THEN HANG ON!
CRASH

FIGHT CONTROLS ARE CUT! WE'RE SPINNING!
I'M DEAD..
...ON THIS ROPE!
GOTTA TAKE A CHANCE...
...AND HOPE THERE'S SOMETHING SOFT DOWN THERE!
WATER I HOPE...
UMMPH!
UGH!
NO... WATER... BUT AT LEAST... I'M ALIVE.
SORT OF..
HOPE THE GUYS IN THE CHOPPER MADE IT.
THUMP
LOOKS LIKE I'M ON FOOT FROM HERE ON...
GREAT.


BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHAT'S THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE...
...A WATCH ALARM!
MYSTIC! UNCONSCIOUS OR...HURT!
AND NEXT TO HER IS A WATCH...
...THE ONE DAD GAVE GABRIEL! HE WAS HERE!
MYSTIC?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
UNNNH...
ARKY?..
YOU... SAVED ME...?
WELL, DARLING...
I REALLY...
NO!
UGH!

YOU LIED TO ME!
YOU SWORE YOU LOVED ME... THEN TRIED TO HAVE YOUR OWN BROTHER...
...KILL ME!
YOUR BROTHER WHOM YOU TORTURED AND USED!
JUST AS YOU USED ME!
YOU USED MY EMOTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS...
...THAT WAS DESTROYING THE OZONE LAYER!
I WAS BLINDED BY YOUR STRENGTH, ARKY CONDE.
I TRULY BELIEVED YOU WANTED TO CHANGE... AND HELP ME TO PROTECT THIS PLANET.
I MISSED YOU, TOO...
YOU HURT MY... PLANET. *
*SEE MS MYSTIC #8 & #9, FIRST SERIES, FOR FULL STORY—KRIS

EH ?
GET DOWN! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!
...COMIN' AT US!
THERE!
NAILED IT!
BLOODY THING IS FAST!
BUT, WHAT IS IT? NOT LIKE ANY LIZARD I'VE EVER SEEN!
IT'S STILL ALIVE...
THE ENTIRE JUNGLE'S COMING ALIVE WITH THEM!
WE'RE SURROUNDED!
AGAIN... LOST CREATURES.

THEY'RE ATTACKING!
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, MYSTIC?!
I... I... WAS JUST STUNNED...
THESE BEASTS... ARE BEYOND THIS ...REALITY.
YOW!!
ENERGY?
NO NEED FOR UNDUE CONCERN, DEAR LADY.
SPANNG TING'S TARGETING IS THE BEST IN THE GALAXY.
YOU WERE IN NO DANGER.
I MUST DISAGREE, HIGHPERION. THE EARTHER AND THE ELEMENTAL SEEM TO BE IN GRAVE DANGER...
...OF PHYSICAL DAMAGE.

I CORRECT MYSELF.
I FORGET SOMETIMES THAT NOT ALL BEINGS ARE LIKE ME.
WITH IMPERVIOUS SKIN.
A BYPRODUCT OF GROWING UP ON AURALO, WHERE GRAVITY IS 30 TIMES HEAVIER THAN HERE.
YOU SAVED THE ELEMENTAL, HIGHPERION...
...BUT I'LL HANDLE THE REST.
THESE CREATURES LIVE IN THE JUNGLE... IN THE DARK...
...TO GET RID OF THEM...
...ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CREATE MORE ILLUMINATION!
FOOM

I MUST DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP...
WHY BOTHER?
...IT.
THEY'RE GONE...
BUT, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
THIS ONE'S STILL ALIVE.
IT MAY BE AN ABERATION OF NATURE...
...BUT IT IS STILL A LIVING CREATURE.
HOW DARE YOU?!
AGAIN, YOU INTERFERE IN MY AFFAIRS!
BUT... IT'S JUST...AN ANIMAL.
IT TRIED TO KILL YOU!
AN ANIMAL?
IT'S PART OF THIS PLANET...THIS ECOSPHERE.
AND I COULD HAVE DRAWN INFORMATION FROM IT... WHILE IT WAS ALIVE!
AH, WHY DO I BOTHER?
YOU BETRAYED ME ONCE...WHY NOT AGAIN?!
THAT MAN DRIVES ME TO INSANITY.
EVERYTHING I DO WITH THAT WOMAN IS WRONG!

UM... EXCUSE ME...
BUT OUR MISSION HERE IS RATHER IMPORTANT.
THIS JUNGLE IS A DANGER TO THE ENTIRE PLANET.
THERE ARE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF CHLORO-FLOUROCARBONS RISING OUT OF THIS JUNGLE.
SPANNG... SHOW HER.
THESE CFC'S ARE OZONE-DESTROYING GASSES BEING GENERATED FROM REFRIGERATION UNITS OF SOME KIND...
...THAT HAVE BEEN FRACTURED OR BROKEN.
THE REFRIGERANT IS LEAKING, CREATING THESE DANGEROUS GASSES.
AS THEY RISE INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, THE CFC'S BREAK DOWN THEIR CHEMICAL BONDS...
...THAT HOLD THE OZONE LAYER TOGETHER.
IF THAT OCCURS, THE OZONE LAYER WILL NO LONGER PROTECT THIS ISLAND FROM DEADLY ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. I AM AWARE OF THAT DANGER.
BUT THAT IS NOT THE REASON I AM HERE.
I AM HERE TO RESCUE A KIDNAPPED FAMILY.
BUT... EARTHERS WILL DIE... HIDEOUS MUTATIONS. ALL LIFE WILL BE... BURNED.
I WILL DEAL WITH IT...
...BUT AFTER I RESCUE THE FAMILY.
I MADE A COMMITMENT...
AND I ALWAYS HONOR MY WORD.

SHADES OF ZEMOR!

A SHIP!

NOT LIKE ANY I'VE FLOWN ...OR EVEN SEEN!

FOLLOW IT! IT WILL SURELY LEAD US TO WHATEVER BEINGS CONTROL THIS ISLAND.

SKIMMING OVER THE JUNGLE CARPET LIKE FLAT STONES OVER A POND, THE THREE HEROES AND AN ORDINARY HUMAN FOLLOW THE HUGE, BLACK, BIRD-SHAPED CRAFT.

THEN, RISING OUT OF THE STEAMING MIST, THEY SEE SOMETHING THAT IS... IMPOSSIBLE...AN ENTIRE CITY, BUT ONE THAT HASN'T SEEN HUMAN EYES—EVER.

MYSTIC IMMEDIATELY NOTICES THAT THE PROPORTIONS ARE NOT ...HUMAN. ROADS, DOORWAYS, GATES, AND ARCHES...ALL BUILT FOR CREATURES THAT COULD STAND 10–17 FEET TALL.

WITH A SUDDEN REALIZATION, SHE KNOWS WITH CERTAINTY WHERE THE DINOSAURS ARE COMING FROM, AND...

...THAT THEY ARE JUST THE SAVAGES NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE CITY WALLS.

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I SUSPECT THIS IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR OZONE-DEPLETING CHEMICALS.
A CITY THIS LARGE IN THE HEART OF A TROPICAL JUNGLE...
...MUST NEED TO KEEP SOMETHING COLD.
AND HERE COMES ONE OF THE INHABITANTS.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YA FLESHY, WARM-BLOODED MEAT-SUCKERS!
YER ALL UNDER ARREST!
NO MAMMALS INSIDE CITY LIMITS.
YER THE ONLY ONES STUPID ENOUGH TA TRAMPLE ON T-REX'S TURF, ANYWAY.
WELL...
YOU GONNA HAUL TAIL, OR...
WE WOULD BE GLAD TO...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DECLINE YOUR INVITATION, LIZARD!
WHA?!
HOW STUPID ARE YOU, HYBRID?!
UGH!
I WANTED TO GET ARRESTED!
WHY?
SO I COULD BE TAKEN TO THEIR LEADERS.
NOW, WE HAVE TO SEARCH THIS MASSIVE CITY!
WELL, SINCE I SEEM TO BE A LITTLE SHORT IN THE FIRE-POWER DEPARTMENT... I'M GONNA BORROW THIS BIKE AND RIFLE.
SUPERB.
LET'S GET GOING. I DON'T HAVE TO CATCH A RIDE WITH ANYONE NOW.

WELL, MYSTIC? WHAT NOW?
NOW...WE START AT THE MOST LOGICAL POINT—THE CENTER DOME.
IN ADDITION TO LOGIC, THIS PARTICULAR EDIFACE IS EXUDING THE DANGEROUS LEVELS OF CFC'S YOU SPOKE OF EARLIER.
WHATEVER IS CAUSING IT IS... INSIDE!
BUT...EVEN MY STRONGEST BEAM CANNOT... UNH...!
PENETRATE THIS BIZZARRE METAL.
PERHAPS FORCE IS NOT THE SOLUTION.
I HAVE A COMPUTER DECODER THAT CAN ADAPT TO ANY SYSTEM IN THE GALAXY.
SNKT
THIS DOOR SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM.
WITH A CRACKLING GRIND OF ANCIENT MECHANISMS, THE DOOR OPENS...
...ISSUING FORTH CLOUDS OF ARCTIC STEAM INTO THE HUMID, DAMP, JUNGLE AIR.
THAT WOULD BE YOUR REFRIGERANTS, EH, HYBRIDS?

WHOA. SPACE-AGE.
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, I BELIEVE.
THIS TECHNOLOGY REMINDS ME...
AH! THERE YOU ARE.
YOU ARE THE REPAIR CREW. YES? SENT TO HELP US...
WHAT? I DON'T BELIEVE...
OH, I WAS ASSURED OF YOUR ARRIVAL AND YOUR EXPERTISE IN REFRIGERANTS.
OUR SCIENTISTS ...EVEN MYSELF, I ADMIT...ARE AT AN IMPASSE.
WE ARE QUITE DESPERATE FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN REPAIR OUR REFRIGERANT LEAKS.
YOU ARE THEY, CORRECT?
YES...WE ARE YOUR REPAIR CREW.
CAPTAIN, COULD YOU ESCORT THESE MAMMALS TO THE CORE?
THIS WAY. OUR TIME IS LIMITED.

WHAT EXACTLY... IS THE PROBLEM?
OH, I THOUGHT YOU HAD BEEN TOLD.
IT'S NOT THE GENERAL POPULACE... IT'S OUR VALUABLES...
HERE WE ARE... THE CENTRAL CORE.
AS YOU CAN SEE, ALL OF OUR WORK CREWS SEEM UNABLE TO STEM THE TERRIBLE LEAKS WE'VE BEEN HAVING.
AS SOON AS ONE LEAK IS SECURED, ANOTHER BREAKS OUT.
IF WE DON'T STOP THE LEAKAGE SOON, OUR VALUABLES WILL BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED... OR DESTROYED.
WE HAVE ONE MUTILATED MAMMAL WORKING ON IT, BUT HE'S BEEN LITTLE HELP.
SEE FOR YOURSELVES.

MYSTIC! LOOK ...IT'S MY BROTHER, GABRIEL!
THEY'VE GOT HIM CHAINED...LIKE A BEAST!
ARKY... MYSTIC...
HELP ME...IF YOU HAVE ANY LOVE LEFT FOR ME...
HELP ME!
OR KILL ME!!

Plot **Neal Adams** Story **Peter Stone** Pencils. **Sal Velluto** Inks **Rudy Nebres**
Colors **Paul Mounts** Letters **Gail Beckett** Cover Art **Michael Golden**

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HE WAS BLASTED OFF THE SHIP... AND DROWNED.
YOU SAW THE BODY?
WELL, NO.
BUT HE NEVER SURFACED. THE CURRENT MUST HAVE TAKEN THE BODY.
YOU ARE, AT TIMES, A WEAK SISTER, HELLHEART.
I HAVE HEARD OF ARMOR FROM MY OTHER OPERATIVES!
I-I-I...
THIS ARMOR WOULD NOT DROWN!
FIND HIM! HE'S ABOARD THIS SHIP... PLANNING A COUNTER STRIKE!
GOT THAT RIGHT, MR. MYSTERY GUEST!
YOU BOYS ARE GOIN' DOWN... ONE BY ONE.
WITH EX-TREME PREJUDICE!

IF ARMOR IS INDEED ON THE SHIP, WE'D BEST CHECK ON OUR "GUESTS."
I'LL RAISE THE FLIGHT DECK.
EXCELLENT IDEA, LEPER.
NO... MY ENERGY SHACKLES ARE STILL HOLDING THEM.
GUYS... I THINK REM LIKES THE ENERGY DUDE.
YESSSS. SO CLEAN AND PURE.
LIKE I USED TO BE... BEFORE I WAS "UNLEASHED" TO EXPLORE MY DARK SIDE.
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
TSK, TSK.
I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT DARK SECRETS YOU HAVE.
ANYTHING TWISTED ...MAYBE PERVERTED INSIDE THERE?
WHAT MAKES *YOU* SCREAM, SILVER STREAK?
REM INVADES HIS MIND, BRINGING PAINFUL MEMORIES TO THE SURFACE... MAKING THEM REAL. FOR THE SECOND TIME, HE RACES TO SAVE HIS PARENTS...
...HEART BOOMING IN HIS EARS... LEGS ACHING... PANIC RULING HIM.

WHOOM!!
NOOOOOOOO!
MOMMM!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME...
YOU CAN'T!
DAD!
* FOR THE FULL STORY, SEE ARMOR #1 - FIRST SERIES — KRIS
MOMMM! DA-AAD!
REM— THAT'S ENOUGH!
DON'T BE SUCH A PRUDE, HELLHEART.
HIS PAIN...
MENTAL ANGUISH...
IS SO SWEET TO ME. SO... EROTIC.
BHUURG
HANG ON, BRO.
I'LL PAY HER BACK FOR THAT! I SWEAR!
SPLIT UP! SEARCH THE SHIP STEM TO STERN!
VOID, YOU CHECK THE EQUIPMENT. MAKE SURE ARMOR CAN'T GET TO IT!
I WILL, HELLHEART. BUT I NEED... MORE RADIATION... SOON. MY SKIN IS HARDENING... AGAIN...

IN MOMENTS, VOID BULLS HIS WAY THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE HANGAR LIKE A HUMAN TANK.
HARDENING SKIN? HE DOES SEEM TO BE MOVING SLOWER... LIKE A RUSTING ROBOT ...OR A CAR ENGINE WITHOUT OIL.
BUT WHAT DOES HE NEED RADIATION FOR? HE'S ALREADY MUTATED... IT WOULD JUST MAKE HIS DISEASE WORSE.
AND WHAT'S HE DOING DOWN HERE? WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT COULD HE NEED?
YOU!!
LET MY MEN OUT OF HERE...
...MUTANT! YOU CAN'T ATTACK A U.S. VESSEL AND—!
SIT...
DOWN!
WE CAN... DO...WHATEVER ...WE WANT!

THAT'S WHERE THEY ARE!
AT LEAST ALL THE SAILORS ARE ALIVE. I COULD LET THEM OUT...
NO. THOSE HEARTLESS FREAKS WOULD CUT THEM DOWN LIKE CATTLE!
HANGAR
SMART PLAY IS TO STAY ON MY OWN.
FOR NOW...
EH?
ARMOR!
RRRRRR
RRRRAARRGG
FLAMIN' HELL!!
CRACKED THAT PLANE IN HALF LIKE IT WAS NOTHIN'!
GOTTA PLAY IT— NASTY!
NICE TRY!
MY TURN!
HA, HA!
MY SKIN'S TOO TOUGH FOR A KNIFE!
BUT—

I BET MY TITANIUM SHELLS!
'LL CUT THROUGH YER... ARMOR!
I'D PREFER NOT TO FIND OUT!
AIRPLANE FUEL...
AND A SPARK.
A WAVE OF HEAT EXPLODES OUTWARD COOKING THE AIR TO OVER 3,000 DEGREES INSTANTLY...
BUT TRAPPED IN THE HANGAR, THE HEAT IS REFLECTED BACKWARD ONTO ITSELF.
THE AREA BECOMES A GIANT OVEN OF CHOKING SMOKE, BLISTERING HEAT, AND RANDOM EXPLOSIONS.
ARE YOU SCARED, ARMOR?!
AFRAID TO FACE ME?!
VOID MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO MOVE OUT OF THE FLAMES—
—BECAUSE HIS CALLOUSED SKIN PROTECTS HIM FROM THE HEAT?
OR BECAUSE HIS LEGS HAVE LOCKED SOLID?
AIN'T A MAN ALIVE I FEAR!
LET'S DO IT!!

HA! SLOWIN' DOWN, FOUR-EYES!
AARRG!
I COULD'A DODGED THAT ONE IN MY SLEEP!
URK!
SKIN... TOO... HARD...
WA-HOOO!!
HE LOCKED UP SOLID—!
WEIRD.
VOID!
UH-OH! REINFORCEMENTS!
CAUGHT ME IN THE OPEN!
AS I SAID BEFORE —THE DEVIL WITH OUR ORDERS!
ARMOR DIES!!

DO THE UNEXPECTED—
—JUMP AT HIM!
BLAST IT!... CAN'T TARGET FAST ENOUGH!
HEY!
PERFECT!
MADE HIM THINK I WAS GOIN' FER HIM!
WHEN MY REAL TARGET WAS THE CATWALK!
UMF!
SOME SORTA PLASTIC BODY ARMOR.
UFF!
GUNS ALL GONE. LEPER, IT'S HAND TO HAND.
NOW YER ON MY TURF!
DO TELL, ARMOR.
HUH?
MY ARMOR—!

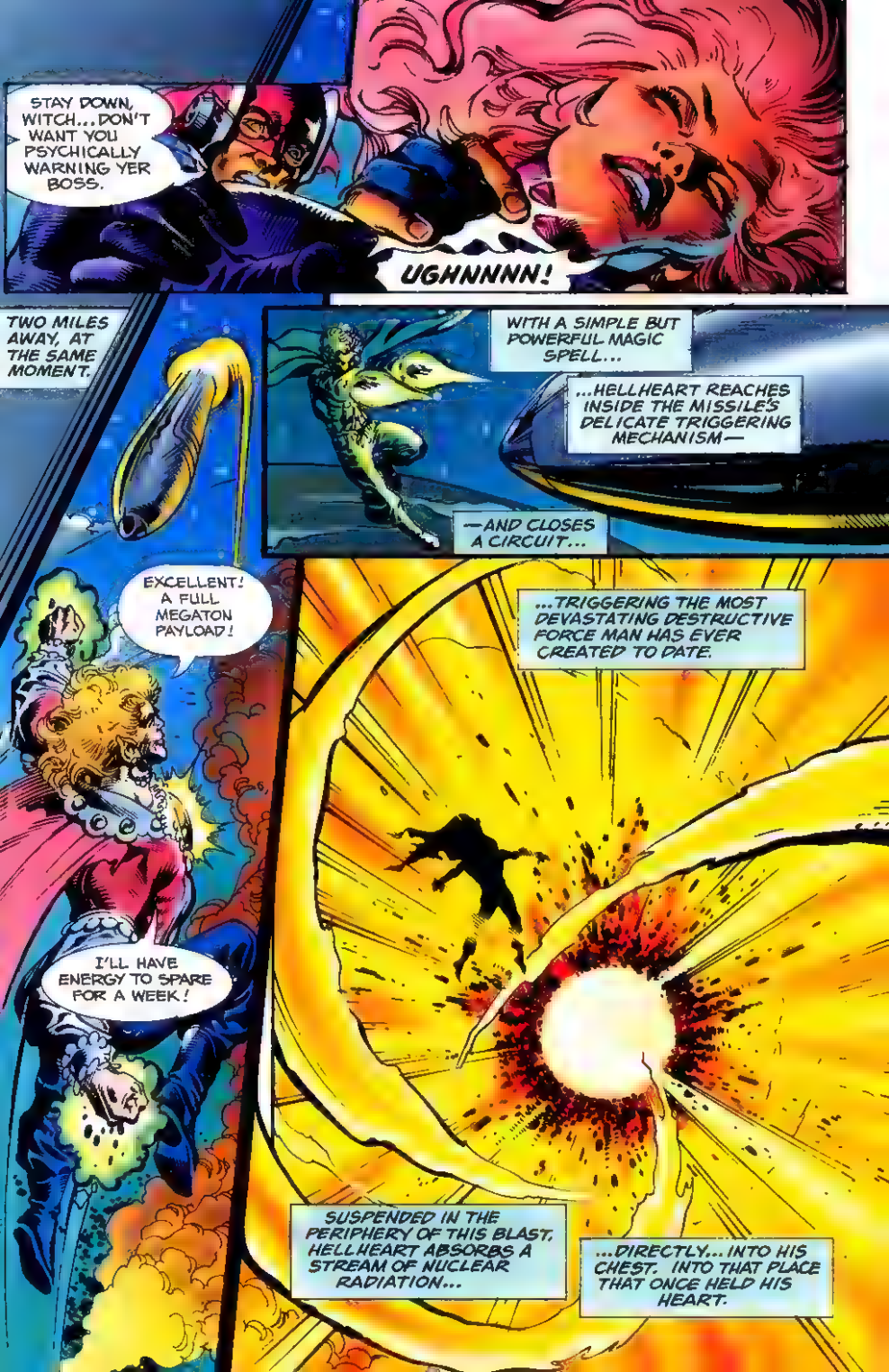
IT'S...
IT'S...
IT'S COMING ALIVE!!
NOT EXACTLY ... IT'S COMING TO ME!
AND AFTER I CHANGE IT INTO A WEAPON... I'M GOING TO KILL YOU WITH YOUR OWN ARMOR!!
I DON'T CARE WHO'S CONTROLLING IT!
THIS SHIP IS HEADED FOR OUR 12 MILE LIMIT, MR. PRESIDENT.
IF YOU DON'T STOP IT...
WE WILL... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, GENTLEMEN.
LOCATE THE U.S.S. NEVADA, GENERAL.
I... I...
I HAVE NO CHOICE, BUT TO AUTHORIZE A SURGICAL MISSILE STRIKE...
HIT THE THUNDERBOLT BEFORE IT GETS ANY CLOSER TO LAND

TEN TENSE MINUTES LATER...
5587733
A MILITARY SATELLITE BOUNCES A MESSAGE TO THE WAITING ATTACK SUB.
FINAL CLEARANCE. ARM AND LAUNCH HARPOON MISSILE IN TUBE # 1!
ARM IT... SIR? IT'S NUCLEAR!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, BOY?!?
FIRE THAT MISSILE OR THERE WON'T BE A SURFACE TO RETURN TO!!
Y-Y-YES, SIR...
AND MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON US ALL.
HUH?!
JAMMED!
GLICK
SHAM

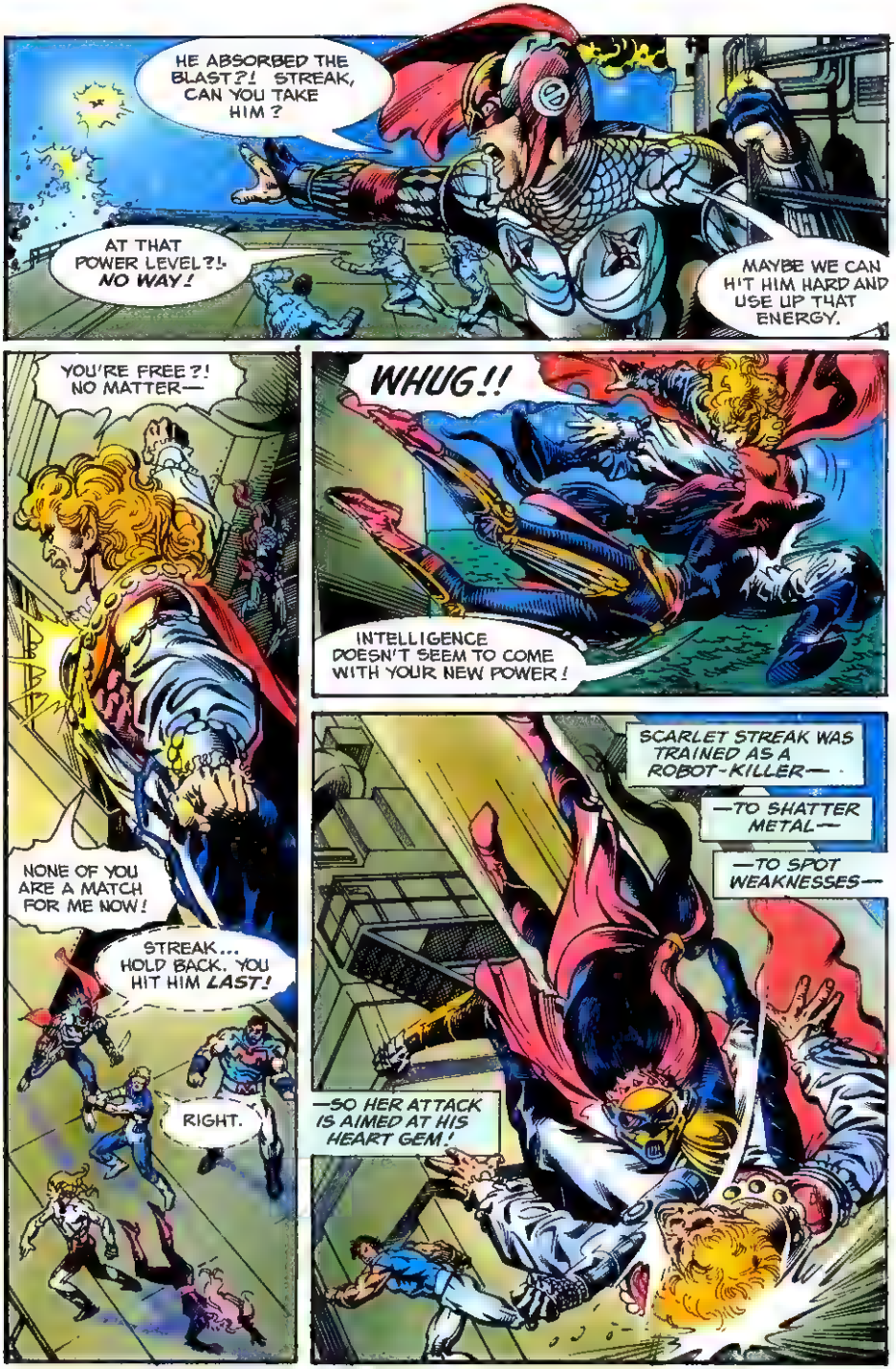
RADICAL!
THIS LEPER MUST ALTER METAL AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL, PSYCHICALLY.
BUT ONLY WHEN HE'S CONSCIOUS!
PROXIMITY ALARMS!
SOMETHING'S COMING TOWARDS THE SHIP!
LIKE A JET OR A... CHOPPER!
IF NORMAL HUMANS ATTACK THESE FREAKS —THEY'LL BE MASSACRED!
WHOOPS! GET BACK, JACK!
HELLHEART, WAIT! TAKE ME WITH YOU! I NEED...!
NO, HELLFIRE!
YOU STAY HERE AND FIND ARMOR!
I PROMISE YOU'LL HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS MAGIC BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
BUT I NEED TO RECHARGE MY HEARTGEM...
AND THIS MISSILE IS THE TREAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

MY FIRE... IS STARTING TO BURN OUT OF CONTROL, REM. I NEED THE CURE!
BAD!
HELLFIRE ... LOOK!
ARMOR!
LET ME BURN HIM!!
GOT CARELESS... AIN'T THE WAY I PLANNED IT!
BUT THEM'S THE BREAKS!
HAVE TO CHANGE TACTICS AND GET—
NASTY!
KNIVES?
AGAINST ME...?
HA!
MY OUTER SKIN...
SWEATS A VISCIOUS OIL...
...HOTTER THAN ANY METAL!
BUT ONLY IF YOU SEE IT COMIN' RIGHT?!
I'M FAST ENOUGH TO NAIL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT GENERATING HEAT!!

TOO SLOW, TIGHT-PANTS! I SAW YOU COMING!
WHOOPS! MISSED, DIDN'T YOU?
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T HAVE TO TOUCH YOU TO MAKE YOU SUFFER!
HUUAARRG!
RAGE!
IN MY HEAD!
OOOOH. THIS IS ONE WRACKED UP PSYCHE.
I'M GONNA HAVE FUN WITH HIM!
NOOOO! RAGE— DEAD!
ARG!
WHO...?!
JUST MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
NICE THROW, BRO. SHE DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT YOU WERE THROWING THE BLADE TO US
SHE HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN WAR PLAY, THIS ONE.
UNNNNH!

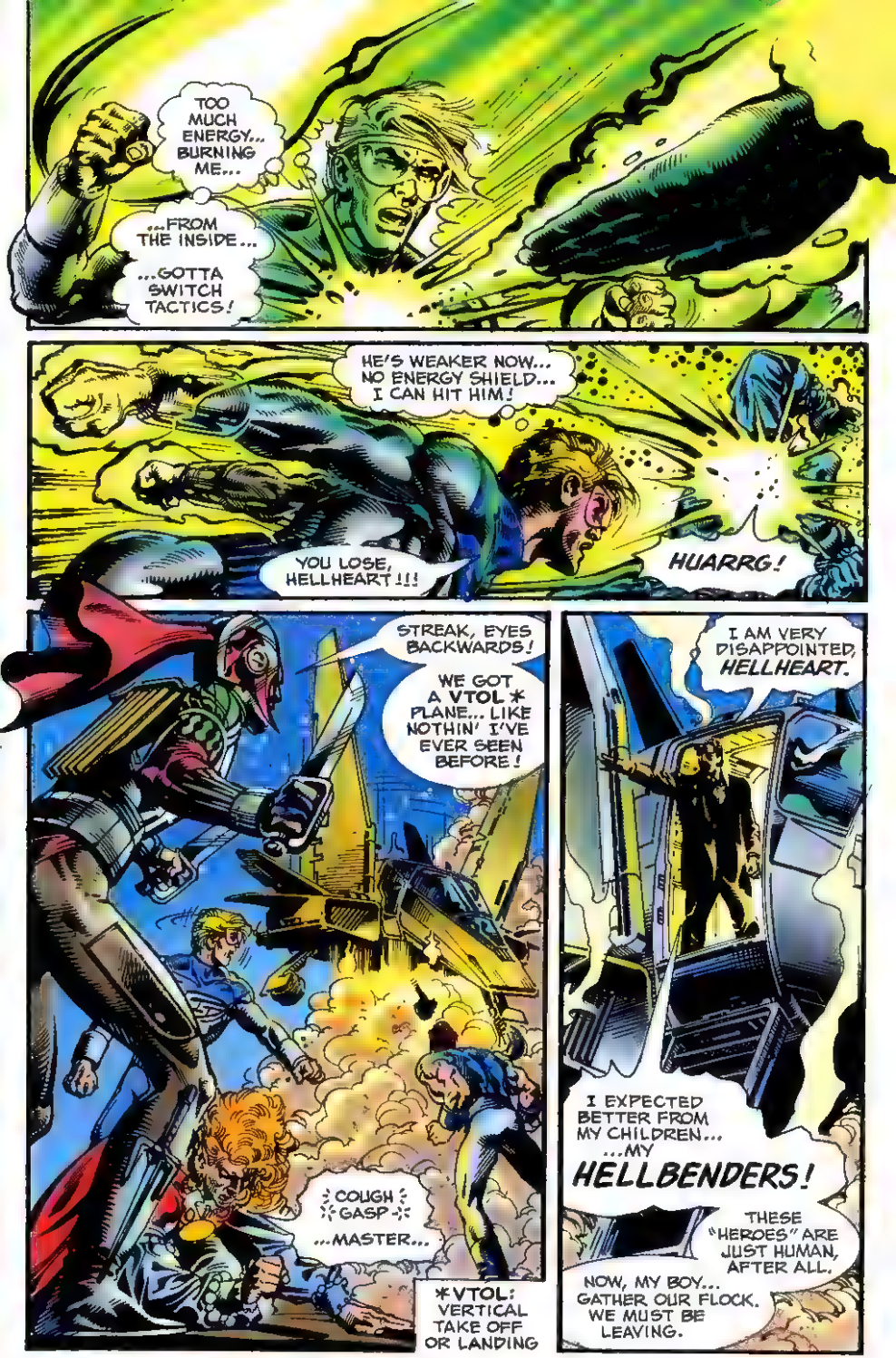

STAY DOWN, WITCH... DON'T WANT YOU PSYCHICALLY WARNING YER BOSS.
UGHNNNN!
TWO MILES AWAY, AT THE SAME MOMENT.
WITH A SIMPLE BUT POWERFUL MAGIC SPELL...
...HELLHEART REACHES INSIDE THE MISSILE'S DELICATE TRIGGERING MECHANISM—
—AND CLOSES A CIRCUIT...
EXCELLENT! A FULL MEGATON PAYLOAD!
...TRIGGERING THE MOST DEVASTATING DESTRUCTIVE FORCE MAN HAS EVER CREATED TO DATE.
I'LL HAVE ENERGY TO SPARE FOR A WEEK!
SUSPENDED IN THE PERIPHERY OF THIS BLAST, HELLHEART ABSORBS A STREAM OF NUCLEAR RADIATION...
...DIRECTLY... INTO HIS CHEST. INTO THAT PLACE THAT ONCE HELD HIS HEART.

MISSILE DETONATION SIR, BUT...
...BUT...
...IT DETONATED BEFORE ITS PRIMARY TARGET!
SON...
...THAT MISSILE WILL VAPORIZE EVERYTHING IN A HALFMILE RADIUS.
"...CLOSE ENOUGH TO BLAST THOSE HIGHJACKERS..."
LOOK AWAY!! IT'LL BLIND YOU!
STREAK, CAN YOU STOP IT?
FROM HERE? I-I-I-I DON'T THINK SO...
IT'S TOO LATE, JACK...
GAMMA RADIATION-
INFRA-RED LIGHT-
-CANCER-CAUSING ALPHA RADIATION-
-HEAT-
-PURE WHITE LIGHT WAVES-
-AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE-
ALL ARE ABSORBED INTO THE PULSING GEM THAT REPLACED THIS YOUNG MAN'S HEART.
EVERY ERG OF ENERGY MAKES HIM STRONGER-
-MAKES HIM POSSIBLY THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE ON EARTH!
TRULY NOW HE IS— HELLHEART!


HE ABSORBED THE BLAST?! STREAK, CAN YOU TAKE HIM?
AT THAT POWER LEVEL?! NO WAY!
MAYBE WE CAN HIT HIM HARD AND USE UP THAT ENERGY.
YOU'RE FREE?! NO MATTER—
NONE OF YOU ARE A MATCH FOR ME NOW!
STREAK... HOLD BACK. YOU HIT HIM LAST!
RIGHT.
WHUG!!
INTELLIGENCE DOESN'T SEEM TO COME WITH YOUR NEW POWER!
SCARLET STREAK WAS TRAINED AS A ROBOT-KILLER—
—TO SHATTER METAL—
—TO SPOT WEAKNESSES—
—SO HER ATTACK IS AIMED AT HIS HEART GEM!

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES HER.
YOU— HUMAN!!
DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU!!
DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU—
JUST GIVE US AT LEA— HARRG!
TALK IS CHEAP, MEGALITH!
SHOW SOME BRASS!
FINE!
IF I WAS AT NORMAL POWER...
I SUSPECT YOU WOULD HAVE SHATTERED MY JAW, BUT...

LOOKING FOR A REAL FIGHT ?
SILVER STREAK !
I'M SO FAR BEYOND THAT—
I COULD SEAR THE FLESH RIGHT OFF YOUR BONES!
ADMIT DEFEAT AND—
THAT GEM IS WHERE ALL THAT ENERGY IS STORED...
...MY BEST SHOT IS TO MAKE HIM THINK I'M ATTACKING...
WHILE I'M REALLY JUST SUCKING HIM DRY!
YOUR MUTANT PALS CAUSED ME A LOT OF PAIN—
I'VE BEEN ACHING TA SETTLE THE SCORE!
GO FOR IT!!


TOO MUCH ENERGY... BURNING ME...
...FROM THE INSIDE...
...GOTTA SWITCH TACTICS!
HE'S WEAKER NOW... NO ENERGY SHIELD... I CAN HIT HIM!
YOU LOSE, HELLHEART!!!
HUARRG!
STREAK, EYES BACKWARDS!
WE GOT A VTOL* PLANE... LIKE NOTHIN' I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE!
COUGH GASP
...MASTER...
*VTOL: VERTICAL TAKE OFF OR LANDING
I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED, HELLHEART.
I EXPECTED BETTER FROM MY CHILDREN... ...MY HELLBENDERS!
THESE "HEROES" ARE JUST HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
NOW, MY BOY... GATHER OUR FLOCK. WE MUST BE LEAVING.

YOU'RE THE GUY FROM THAT HOLOGRAM! THESE FREAKS WORK FOR YOU!
WE SHOULD BE BEATIN' ON YOU...
NOT THEM!
HUNH!
FAST...
NOT SMART.
SCARLET! TAG THIS CHUMP!
ARG!
UNH!
YOU ARE NOTHING TO ME.
I COULD EASILY KILL YOU!
STOP IT! WHO ARE YOU?!
MASON GRAVES.
I MEAN... WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS?!
TO PROTECT AND FEED MY FAMILY.
FOR GOOD REASON, JOSEF MAJURAC.
TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR THEM TO LIVE.

I LIKE THE WORLD JUST THE WAY IT IS, GRAVES!
I BEAT YOUR BOY, HELLHEART, AND I CAN TOAST YOU!
YOU SOPHOMORIC TEENAGER!
I SPENT FIVE YEARS DESIGNING THAT ANTI-GRAVITY TURBINE...
WASTED IN A MOMENT OF YOUR IGNORANT BRAVADO!
NO MATTER, REALLY...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO REVEAL MY TRUE FORM...
MASON GRAVES IS BUT A SHELL...

LOOK ON THE TRUE FORM OF—
THE DRAGON—
AND KNOW THE TRUE FACE OF THE FUTURE!!
GATHER AROUND ME, MY CHILDREN— OUR TASK HERE IS DONE!!

GET AFTER THEM!
I'M NOT SCARED OF A BIG LIZARD!
I'VE TAKEN ON WORSE... AND KICKED BUTT!
WATCH OUT, JACK!
ONCE I WOULD HAVE FEASTED ON YOUR SOUL, BOY...
LIKE HE PLANS TO MEET US AGAIN, HUH, GUYS?
AND—IF THEY DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING—OR REALLY DO ANYTHING...
WHY WERE THEY HERE?
YES...
A DISTURBING QUESTION.
BUT IT IS ENOUGH I AM SIMPLY YOUR BETTER.
THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME FOR REVENGE... LATER.

WHAT'S MEGALITH DOING, MITE? EVER SINCE THAT DRAGON STOLE THE REST OF THE PARTICLE ACCELERATORS ...HE'S JUST BEEN... SITTING THERE.

NEAR AS I CAN TELL, SHEALTH... HE'S THINKING.

GUESS THAT'S WHAT EARTHERS DO WHEN THEY LOSE A FIGHT.

ON HIVEWORLD WE MASS FOR ATTACK... UNLESS THE HIVE MOTHER...

UH... YEAH, YEAH, RIGHT. ...

...I DON'T THINK HE'S SURE OF WHAT TO DO NEXT.

HE'S... THINKING. I... THINK THAT'S HOW HE DEFEATED US... REMEMBER?

Plot Neal Adams Story Peter Stone Pencils Vicente Alcazar Inks Andre Ktasic Colors Tom Roberts and Cory

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HUH ?

WHAT THE BLAZES IS THAT ?!

ANOTHER ATTACK?!

MEGALITH

DEATHWATCH 2,000

PITIABLE CHILD!

IF THE SHAMAN HAD CHOSEN TO ATTACK YOU...

...YOU'D NOT HAVE THE BREATH TO UTTER YOUR PURILE QUESTION.

RATHER WISH TO PRAY TO THE GODS FOR AN ATTACK-

-FOR THERE IS ALREADY A HIDDEN WAR BEING FOUGHT!

A WAR WHOSE OUTCOME IS AS SURE AS THIS PLANET CIRCLES THE SUN.

THE SUN THAT WILL BE THE ULTIMATE FOE!

UNLESS-YOU MAKE A DECISION!!

THE WARNING

FOCUS, JOSEF MAJURAC!

FOCUS!!

AVOID THE GENERAL- FOCUS ON ONE, SINGLE PROBLEM.'

WHO THE HELL AR...

WHICH ONE!!?

-OZONE LAYER DEPLETION-

-ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION-

-STOLEN PARTICLE ACCELERATORS-

-STEROID MONSTER-

-KIDNAPPED [illegible]-

-UNDERGROUND TITANS-

-DRAGON-

-HELLBENDERS-

-MISSING CHLOROFLOURD CARBONS-

-SAVE THE FACTORY-

HE'S FROZEN MEGALITH'S STUNNED. WH...

HE NEEDS SAVING!

LET'S SEE IF THIS SHAMAN BLEEDS WHEN CUT.

C'MON.

NO TIME!

YOU ARE A POTENTIAL ALLY.

-HYBRID/MITE-

-SO I REFUSE TO BATTLE YOU!

YOUR GRAVITY POWERS ARE IMPRESSIVE...

...SHEALTH...

WHUG!

FOOOM

...BUT ONLY IF THEY STRIKE THEIR TARGET!

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!

MAGIC, BOY!

UHN!

MEGALITH! YOUR DECISION MUST BE MADE NOW!

NOW!

THESE ANOMOLIES OF NATURE AND SEEMINGLY RANDOM FACTORS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT!

USE THAT PRODIGIOUS INTELLECT FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN FUTILE BATTLE.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE "FUTILE BATTLE."

COWARD... I WOULD'VE TAKEN HIM.

WONDER IF GYMCRACK WAS CLONED FROM THIS MAN.

HE'S VERY HANDSOME.

ANOTHER TIME, DEAR GIRL.

BUT NOW I MUST BE GOING...

A CERTAIN CYBERNAUT RADICAL NEEDS SOME...DIRECTION.

WAIT!

CAN'T YOU-

--TELL ME ANY MORE?!

HE... WELL HE "WARNED" ME... THAT I HAD TO FOCUS MY ATTENTION... OR... ENERGY...

WHAT DID THAT... EARTHER DO TO YOU, MEGALITH?

ON THE GREATEST DANGER...

MAYBE HE MEANT THE HELLBENDERS.

..UH-NO THEY'RE JUST A SYMPTOM.

THEN WHAT?

CHLORO FLURO-CARBONS.

THEY'VE BEEN DISAPPEARING IN INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS!

HUNDEDS OF TONS OF THEM!

YEAH? SO WHAT?

I MEAN THAT'S OLD NEWS MUSCLES.

YOU CAME HERE TO FIND OUT WHERE ALL THE CFCS WENT... AND YOU NEVER DID. SO LET THE AUTHORITES HANDLE IT.

YOU-

-DON'T-

-UNDERSTAND!

THE CFCS ARE THE REAL DANGER!

THOSE CFCS HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF *DESTROYING* THE OZONE LAYER!

IT'S A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS!

IF THESE THEFTS CONTINUE...

ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET COULD BE THREATENED IRRIDIATED.....

...DIE!

YOU'D BETTER SAY SOMETHING QUICK SHEALTH.

HE'S GETTING PUNCHY.

YES...

OH...I THINK WE DO.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, MEG.?

SKIK

IT'S...

IT'S A PLANET. NO... I GUESS I DON'T.

IT'S A DEAD PLANET. HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?

DEAD?

NO. THIS PLANET IS ALIVE...

...BUT-

-POPULATED BY MUTATED LIFE FORMS.

KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

THE BOTH DESTROYED THEIR OZONE LAYER.

FINE ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS... LIKE EARTH. THERE ARE 7 KNOWN PLANETS THAT HAVE DONE THIS.

MY ADOPTIVE PEOPLE... ARE ONE OF THEM. OUR ANCESTOR'S MIGRATED TO ANOTHER PLANET AND ADAPTED.

BUT... OUR TRUE PLANET OF ORIGIN IS A...

HUSK!

WAIT A MINUTE!

ARE YOU TELLING ME...

...THIS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HYBRIDS COMING TO EARTH?

THE INTERGALACTIC COMMUNITY...

...HAS PREDICTED THE DESTRUCTION OF 75% OF YOUR OZONE LAYER...

...BY THE EARTH YEAR 2000.

WE CAME...

TO WATCH.

AND AFTER SOME... UH... DISCUSSION... WE DECIDED TO STOP IT.

THAT'S WHY WE TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE EARTH'S GOVERNMENT.

THEN YOU SHOWED US THAT WAS A BAD IDEA.

WHAT?

WHY... DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THAT?

TO WHAT END? THOUSANDS OF EARTHERS MORE RESPECTED THAN US ARE WARNING YOU EVERY DAY.

IT'S LIKE A GIANT UNSTOPABLE DESTRUCTIVE MACHINE.

AND IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER!

BUT..WE CAN'T SLOW IT DOWN...

NO. THE DAMAGE THAT'S BEEN DONE WON'T CORRECT ITSELF FOR 100 YEARS.

CFCS STAY IN THE ATMOSPHERE.. DESTROYING..FOR A CENTURY.

IT CAN ONLY GET WORSE.

WELL, MY QUESTION HAS BEEN WHAT PROBLEM TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH FIRST.

I GUESS YOU'VE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION.

THE ACCELERATORS WILL HAVE TO WAIT. BUT I HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW TO TRACK THESE CFCS.

WE THOUGHT YOU KNEW HOW, LOOK AT THIS

THERE ARE YOUR CFC STOCKPILES... FLOWING TOWARD... THERE.

WHOA.

THOSE AREN'T AIR ROUTES... OR SHIPPING... IT MUST BE ROADS.

BUT HOW DO YOU MOVE THAT MUCH ON A ROAD...?

TRUCKS!

A CONVOY OF TRUCKS!

THEY DROVE RIGHT PAST ME! *

*SEE MEET #0-100'S.

AN HOUR LATER ON A FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY SOMEWHERE IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE CONVOY MEGALITH WATCHED EARLIER CONTINUES ONWARD...

...TOWARD SOME MYSTERIOUS DESTINATION.

WE CAUGHT THEM!

BUT I'VE GOT TO REST SOON, MEGALITH. CARRYING THREE OF US... FOR THIS LONG... TAKES A LOT OUT OF ME.

SET US DOWN ON THAT LAST TRUCK, SHEALTH.

BUT QUIETLY...

AH, YER A WIMP, SHEALTH!

NO ENDURANCE.

YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT ON HIVEWORLD.

OKAY WE'RE DOWN.

NOW WHAT BIG GUY?

MITE.. CAN YOUR CLAWS RIP OPEN THIS METAL?

WHY DON'T WE JUST TORTURE ONE OF THE DRIVERS 'TILL HE TALKS?

SORRY... UMMPH!

IS THAT A JOKE MEGALITH?

BEFORE WE JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS... WE SHOULD...

UNH!

SHRANK

...FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THESE TRUCKS

BIG METAL CANNISTERS.

YES..BUT IF THESE LABELS ARE ANY INDICATION...THEY'RE ALL FILLED WITH CFCS--REFRIGERANTS.

YOU EARTHERS USE CFCS AS REFRIGERANTS? ARE YOU INSANE?!

MISINFORMED AND LAZY IS MORE LIKE IT.

NOW WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHERE THESE TRUCKS ARE HEADED.

LEMME AT THE DRIVER...

Y' KNOW MITE YOU'RE A FUN KINDA BUG.

?!

KLANK

!!!

HUH?

TROUBLE!

UNNNNH...

GREETINGS, EARTHER! CARE TO PLAY A GAME MY OLD HOME CALLS GRAVTAG!?

UGGGGLE--!

STOP

UGH!

THUD

UNH!

WU

UGH!

GREAT ESSHER! THIS ISN'T AN EARTHER!?!

AT LEAST NOT A VERY PRETTY ONE!

IT'S SOME SORT OF CREATURE...

...LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THE OUTER RIM.

NO. NOT AN ALIEN, SHEALTH. IT'S A TITAN.

THE CREATURES WHO TRIED TO STEAL THE ACCELERATOR.*

*SEE MEGA #0 FOR THIS FIGHT - KRIS.

BETTER GET THESE THINGS INTO THE BACK.

WE'RE TURNING OFF THE HIGHWAY...

...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADED UPHILL INTO THE MOUNTAINS.

HA! HEY, GUYS...

BETTER PUT ON THESE MASKS... HEH HEH...

AS A DISGUISE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, MITE. WE'RE COMIN' UP ON A BUILDING?

AND A CHECK POINT. MITE, KEEP DOWN.

LOADING DOCK SEVEN.

MOVE IT!

THAT'S NOT A HUMAN.

IT'S A ROBOT.

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

TRUST ME.

HE DOESN'T MOVE RIGHT... SMOOTH AND MECHANICAL.

THAT AND MY EYES PICK UP HEAT SOURCES...

HIS ARE ALL WRONG.

WHAT ARE ALL THESE TRUCKS DOING?

UNLOADING, SHEALTH. ALL THOSE CFCS ARE GOING INTO THAT... BLACK CUBE.

BUT IT'S NOT A BUILDING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

ALL THOSE CFCS... CONCENTRATED IN ONE PLACE... IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE ALL THOSE CHEMICALS COULD DO IN THE OZONE LAYER!

IT WOULD CRUMBLE IN... DAYS.

WHAT COULD THEY BE DOING WITH IT ALL?

HEY MEG... I THOUGHT YOU SAID EARTHERS DIDN'T HAVE SUPER-CONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY YET?

WE DON'T. WE'RE JUST STARTING TO EXPERIMENT NOW, MITE.

WELL THAT CUBE IS FLOATING ON SUPER-CONDUCTOR TECH. I GUARENTEE IT.

NOTHING ELSE COULD POWER MAGNETICS THAT STRONG.

I BET MY EXOSKELETON IT'S SUPER-CONDUCTORS.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HOLD UP TRAFFIC WHILE MEG 'N I CHECK OUT THE BOX, MITE?

ANOTHER COMEDIAN.

YOU GUYS GET READY TO JUMP OUT THE BACK AND HEAD FOR COVER.

IT'S TIME FER SOME ACTION.

HALT!

YOU ARE EXCEEDING SPEED LIMITS!

BOTH TRUCKS CAREEN WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL, THE STRESS RIPPING THE CARGO SECTIONS OPEN...

...SPEWING CFC CANNISTERS ACROSS THE HIGHWAY.

THE ENTIRE CONVOY IS FROZEN... AT LEAST FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

HA!

I WAS HOPING THESE 'BOTS WEREN'T TOTAL STIFFS.

HERE THEY COME...

WHO'S FIRST!?!

WHO WANTS TO GET THEIR CIRCUITS RIPPED OUT FIRST!?!

STOPPER 123 TO STORAGE FACILITY--

--HYBRID AGENT VERIFIED.

ACTIVATE ESCAPE CLAUSE.

TOO SLOW, STOPPER!

`SIDES NO ONE'S EVER BLASTED ME...

...AND A WHOLE LOT BETTER 'N YOU HAVE TRIED!

STOPPER 123 - WIDE BROADCAST.

HYBRID/MITE ESCAPING INTO FOLIAGE AT VECTOR 745.

CONVERGE AND DESTROY.

THERE YA GO, BOYS--A DIVERSION.

MAKE IT COUNT.

EXCELLENT. MITE'S LURED ALL THE GUARDS AWAY FROM US.

YEAH. SHE'S GOOD AT THAT.

I'LL KEEP TRACK OF HER MENTALLY AND LET HER KNOW WHERE WE ARE.

GOOD. LET'S FIND OUT WHO OR WHAT'S IN CONTROL OF THIS THING.

CAN'T. SEE. MOVES LIKE ITS ALIVE.

GOOD. YOU CAN OVER US DOWN...

QUICKLY AND QUIETLY... I'LL VERIFY IF IT'S ANIMAL, VEGETABLE OR MINERAL.

IT VIBES LIKE ANIMAL.

ROGER.

FORWARD MOMENTUM INITIATED.

THIS SHIPMENT COMPLETE... BUT ROBOTS REPORT A POSSIBLE HYBRID ASSAULT.

THIS UNIT SECURE.

DRIVER #53 OUT.

IT'S ANIMAL!

WHUG!

GET HIM OUTTA THE WAY, MEG..

SOMEONE'S GOTTA DRIVE THIS THING.

UH...

...GOT ANY IDEA WHICH IS THE STEERING WHEEL?

MOVE OVER, EATHER... I'LL HANDLE IT.

HEY! WERE HEADED INTO THIS MOUNTAIN.

BUT... I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.

TITANS CAN'T STAND DIRECT SUNLIGHT.

WE MUST BE ENTERING THE ROCKIES, NEAR.

MY CONCERN...

...IS WHAT'S AT THE END OF THIS SUPER-CONDUCTOR ROADWAY.

I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FINDOUT.

GET DOWN! THEY MIGHT SEE US!

A STOPPER GUARD POST!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE READY TO STOP ANYTHING.

IT'S LIKE WE'RE ENTERING AN ARMED CAMP.

WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HELP. ANY CHANCE THE OTHER HYBRIDS ARE FREE?

UH... NO. MAYBE SOON, BUT NOT NOW.

OKAY.

TIME FOR SOME EARTH BACK-UP.

BEEP BEEP

JACK! WAKE UP FAST. IT'S ME... JOE.

THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY BIG GOIN' ON - AND THE DRAGON IS INVOLVED.

THE DRAGON?

I WAS JUST DREAMING ABOUT HIM.

I'M IN WASHINGTON ... THE STATE. SOMEWHERE NEAR MT. ST. HELENS THE VOLCANO!

SOMEONE'S FILLED CAVERNS WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS, CHLORO FLOURO CARBONS...

STUFF THAT COULD COMPLETELY DESTROY THE OZONE LAYER.

...WAIT A MINUTE!

IT JUST HIT ME!

THE DRAGON'S GONNA BLOW UP THE VOLCANO! AND DESTROY THE OZONE!

JACK - SORRY, GOTTA GO!

MEGALITH!

LOOK!!

IT ISN'T JUST ONE CUBE...

...THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM!!

THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN NETWORK IS FILLED WITH BILLIONS OF TONS OF CHLORO FLOURO CARBONS!

ALERT INTRUDERS!!

A HUMAN! AND A HYBRID!

ENERGY BLASTS- I CAN'T USE MY GRAVITY POWERS TO STOP THEM!

SHEALTH- MOVE! WE'RE SITTING DUCKS IN HERE!

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM... CAN'T POSSIBLY BEAT THEM ALL.

WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY... COME UP WITH A GAME PLAN!

SHEALTH!

HEAD FOR THE SIDE TUNNELS!

DON'T TRY TO FIGHT THEM ALL!

WHY NOT?! THEY'RE JUST MACHINES.

SEE.?

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GENERATE A "BLACK HOLE" EFFECT...

...AND THEY'RE DRAWN TOGETHER AND SMASHED TO PIECES.

NO PROBLEM, MEGALITH.

ZAM!

UGH!

SHEALTH!

HE'S FALLING MUST BE OUT... OR STUNNED.

A FALL FROM THAT HEIGHT WILL KILL HIM.

GOTTA—

--CATCH HIM!

WHA...?

JUST RELAX... WE'RE ON OUR WAY OUT!

KABOUM!

WOH!

NOOOO!

ARMS... ON FIRE...

BACK FEELS... BROKEN...

CAN'T... GET UP...

SHEALTH...?

HUH?

LIGHT... AM I... DYING...?

NOT YET, MEGALITH. BUT IT APPEARS WE'VE ARRIVED IN THE NICK OF TIME.

SHAMAN? AND...?

SIMON PEAKE. BUT MOST CALL HIM--CYBERAD.

WHAT'S... GOIN' ON?

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

REMEMBER THAT CRUX I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT?

THIS IS IT.

YOU HAVE TAKEN MY ADVICE, JOSEF.. AND NOW YOU MUST LISTEN AGAIN.

YOUR ROLE IS NOT TO DIE FIGHTING ROBOTS

YOUR FATE LIES THAT WAY. HEED MY WORDS, MEGALITH.

CYBERAD- YOU MUST DESTROY THOSE TIN WARRIORS.

NOT A PROBLEM, MOHAWK.

SHAK

KA-SHUNK

KLAK

WHUR

I DON'T LIKE RUNNING FROM A FIGHT...

DESPITE MY RINGING HEAD.

I HAVE THE NASTY FEELING THERE WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH FIGHTS TO GO AROUND.

STILL...

WHO WAS THAT KID? LOOKED LIKE A ROBOT, HIMSELF.

NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE.

IS THAT BAD? THIS "HELL-PLACE?"

YES, I THINK ITS VERY BAD IF YOU LISTEN TO *RUMORS*...

BUT... IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE HEART OF THE VOLCANO.

LIKE WE'RE GOING TO A KIND OF *HELL*.

...SORT OF LIKE THIS PLANET WOULD BE LIKE IF THOSE FLOROCARBONS STRIPPED AWAY OUR OZONE LAYER.

...OH!

Ah, Mr. Bond, I've been expecting you.
Please come in.
Thank you.
Would you like some tea?
Yes, please.
Milk and sugar?
Just milk, please.
Here you are.
Thank you.
Now, Mr. Bond, I'm sure you're wondering why I asked you to come here.
I'm not wondering at all.
I know why you're here.
I'm here to kill you.
Oh, dear.
Let's get down to business.

THOOM

HAW, HAW, HAW! NICE SHOOTIN', LEPER!!

I CONCUR, VOID.

KEEP POURING IT ON LEPER! THEY'RE NOT DOWN YET!

MAKE THEM SUFFER!

ENOUGH, REM. FATHER!

YOU HAVE DEFIED ME ONCE ...AND FAILED!

LEAVE NOW AND I WON'T DESTROY YOU...

STAY AND THE OFFER IS RECINDED.

YOU ARE MY SON NO MORE!!

I DENY YOU AND YOUR EVIL MASTER!

I WILL DEFY YOU!!

URTH WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE QUARTET..

I ENJOY INFLICTING PAIN, HELL HEART

ESPECIALLY ON THOSE WHO ARE SO... PERFECT...

SINCE MY OWN BODY IS SO WILLING TO FALL APART.

POPPA BEAR

MAMA BEAR

THAT GOES DOUBLE FER US, KID!

NOBODY SLUGS MY FAVORITE ROCK-DUDE AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.

YOUR CHOICE WIND RIDER.

YOUR FUNERAL.

SHOOM

THOR
Marvel Comics

Hot Wheels
Hot Wheels
Hot Wheels
Hot Wheels

MY CHILDREN--

GATHER CLOSE!

TIME IS BRIEF.

YES, GATHER AS MANY AS YOU CAN CARRY.

THEY ARE VITAL TO US.

WIND! BUT AYRE IS...

UGH!

BUT, WHO CARES?

NOT AYRE, HELL HEART!

WIND MAY STAGGER YOU... BUT NOT VOID.

PUT-

-THOSE-

-NUCLEAR-

-TRIGGERS.

-DOWN.

YOUR FIRST AND ONLY WARNING, BENDERS.

BY THE WAY, VOID...

THAT WAS JUST A LIGHT BREEZE.

TRY THE FULL POWER OF...

-CYCLONE!!

HUARG!

I NOT GONNA KILL YA, HYBRID!

I'M JUST GONNA BURN YER FACE OFF!

WANNA BET EARTHER?!

WEATHER IS NOT MY ONLY WEAPON!

I WAS A BLADE-MASTER ON BRRNTON-FERS!

ARG!

THE TRIGGERS, MASTER?

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IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN RAIN FOREST, HIDDEN IN A VALLEY FOR 65 MILLION YEARS, AN IMPOSSIBILITY... ...AN ENTIRE CITY POPULATED BY INTELLIGENT DINOSAURS.
TRAVELING WITH THE HYBRIDS, HIGHPERION AND SPANNG TING, AS WELL AS HER ONCE-PARAMOUR, ARKY CONDE... MS MYSTIC INFILTRATES THE CITY, ONLY TO DISCOVER ARKY'S BROTHER, GABRIEL ...THE MONSTER... SLAVE!
YOU COLD-HEARTED SCUM ... YOU STOP TORTURING MY BROTHER GABRIEL!
STOP!
EERFEEEENK
ARG!
ARKY!
DON'T KILL HIM! HE'S NOT.... RESPONSIBLE!!
BALAM

QUICKLY, YOU TWO — GO FREE THE MONSTER! I WILL DEAL WITH CONDE... AND FIND THE FAMILY I'M HERE TO RESCUE.
BUT, HE'S GONNA K LL...
HE WON'T! GO — NOW!
AFFIRMATIVE, MYSTIC.
SPANNG... SCAN THE PIPE AND ITS CONTENTS.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIX THE COOLANT PROBLEM AT THE SAME TIME.
WHO DID THIS TO MY BROTHER, SLUG-LIZARD!? YOU?!
TELL ME, OR MY NEXT SHOT'LL BE THROUGH YOUR EYE!...
WITH THE POWER ON THIS THING ON MAX!
T-REX! COUGH... AND HE WILL SUCK YOUR... BONES, HUMAN!
ENOUGH, CONDE. THIS WAY...
...I SENSE GREAT POWER.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO INTERFERE, MYSTIC...
WHEN I FIND THIS T-REX!
HE'S MINE!
CALM YOURSELF, CONDE.
YOUR BROTHER IS ALIVE...
...AND THE HYBRIDS WILL PROTECT HIM.
DON'T LOSE TOUCH WITH...
R R R R R R
ROAR
...REALITY?!
MERCIFUL GODDESS!

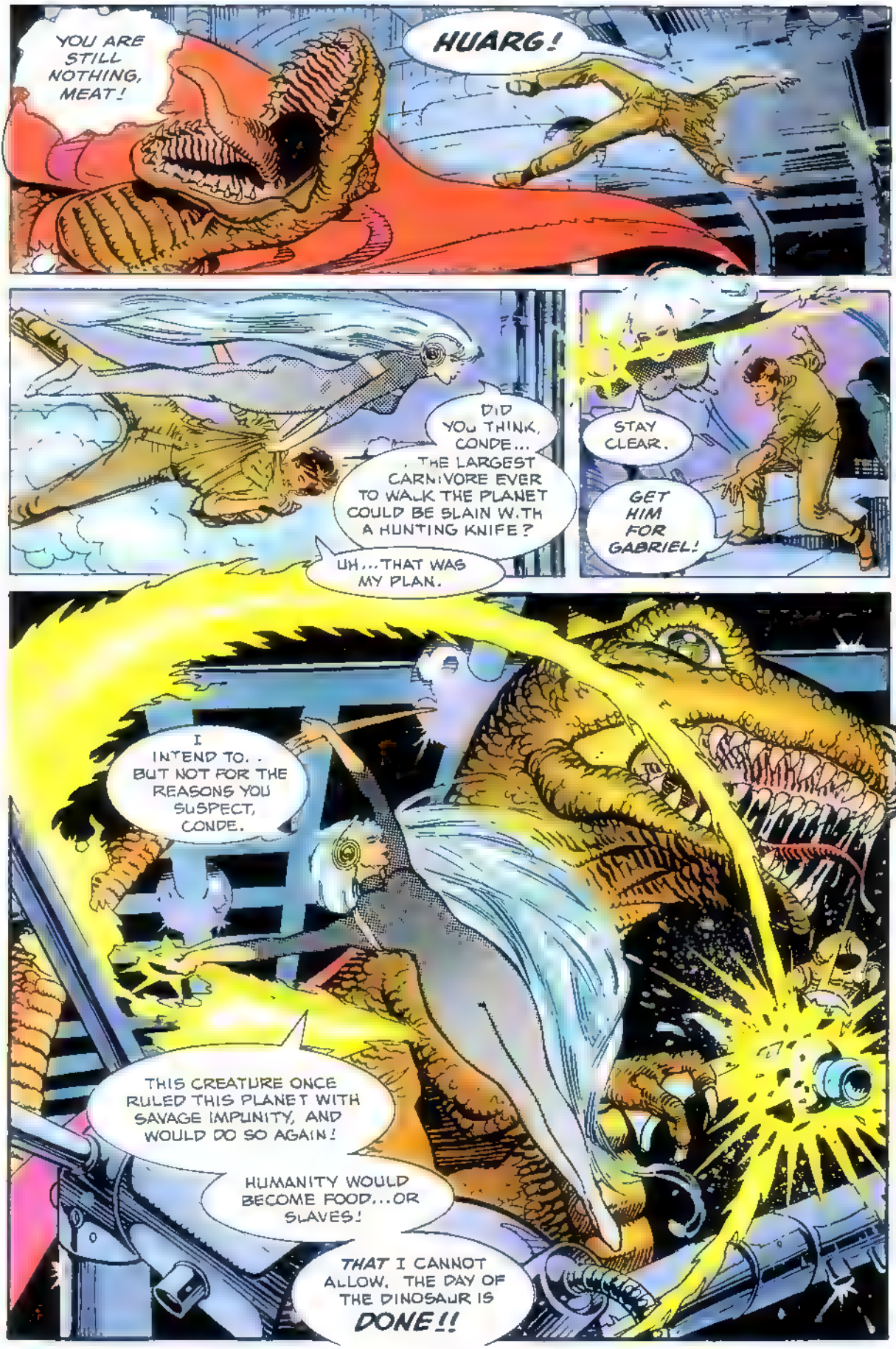
A BEAST FROM THE TWELFTH HORIZON!
HOW DID IT ESCAPE TO THIS PLANE?!
YOW!
ANOTHER ONE?!
WHAT'S THIS, MYSTIC?!
IS THIS THE LEADER HERE?
NO!..
...IT IS NOT EVEN OF THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
IT IS AN ABERRATION OF LIFE...
...A SOUL-LESS CREATURE THAT DOESN'T EXIST IN A SPIRIT FORM DEEP UNDER THE EARTH.
BUT SOMEONE MUST HAVE CREATED A DOORWAY, ALLOWING THIS ONE TO ESCAPE...
...TO USE!
LIKE THE SMALL JUNGLE DINOSAURS, IT SHOULD NOT EXIST ON THIS PLANE.
T-REX MUST BRING THEM UP TO FILL HIS ARMY, WHILE... HE WAITS.
REEEUK

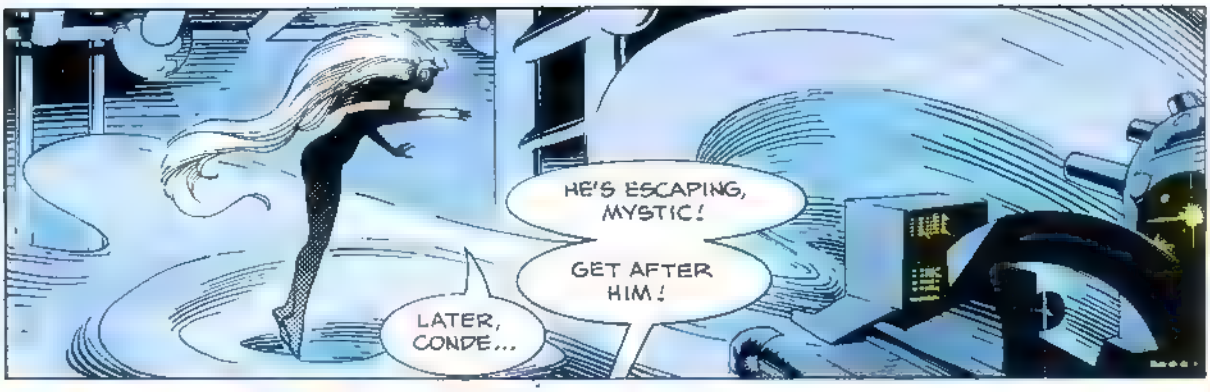
WHY DID... YOU ..? IT WAS A... LIVING CREATURE.
THAT WAS CREATED BY AN EVIL, TWISTED MIND.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT WHERE IT WAS FOUND.
OH
WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
DOWN...
INTO THE LAIR OF THE BEAST, HUH?
GOOD.
AND WHERE I SENSE THE LIFE ENERGY OF THE HARAS FAMILY.
MYSTIC... WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE... I... WANT TO... WELL...
...SAY I WAS WRONG TO TOY WITH YOUR EMOTIONS.
I LISTENED TO DARROW. I THOUGHT YOU WERE A VINDICTIVE, EMOTIONLESS WITCH.
BUT I'VE LEARNED. GROWN UP. I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOU. I NEED YOU.
I'LL DO ANYTHING... TO PROVE IT.
GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE.
MMMPH!?
NO. NOT NOW.
I... CAN'T TRUST YOU. NOT...YET.
I SWORE TO HARDEN MY HEART UNTIL MY MISSION IS FINISHED.
...NO MATTER HOW I FEEL FOR YOU.

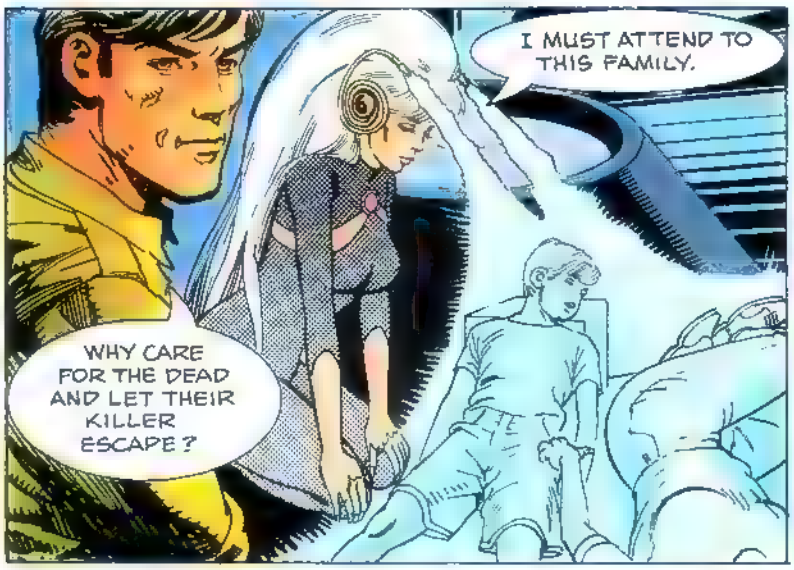
A BLAST OF HOT, DAMP, RANCID AIR HITS THEM AS THE ELEVATOR JOLTS TO A HALT.
THEY HOLD BACK FOR A SECOND. THEN...
NO!
IT CAN'T BE!
WHAT BEAST WOULD...
..KILL A CHILD...?
THERE'S.. CHOKE... NO PULSE.
WE'RE TOO LATE, MYSTIC.
PERHAPS.
BUT THERE IS MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE.
SCATTERED ENERGY... SHIELDED... YET AMBIENT.
HSSSSSSSSSS

YOU LITTLE HUMANS HAVE ALMOST REACHED A LEVEL OF REAL INTELLIGENCE, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU MUST BE MS MYSTIC.
MY ALLIES WARNED ME OF YOUR POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN MY PLANS...
...BUT THEY ALSO TOLD ME HOW TO UTTERLY DESTROY YOU!
YOUR WEAKNESS... ELEMENTAL... LIES IN YOUR PATHETIC EMOTIONAL TIES TO THESE HUMANS YOU PROTECT!
T-REX!

BUT FIRST, YOUR MATE!
WHUG!
AND THEN I'LL INCINERATE YOUR PRECIOUS HUMAN FAMILY!
WATCH THEM BURN!!
NO!
CHANNEL ENERGY...
...MAKE THEM INTANGIBLE!
HEY, KING OF THE LIZARDS!
M SSED ME!
AHHH. STRONGER THAN THE PR.MITIVES THAT LIVED AT THE GATES OF MY CITY WHEN I AWOKE.
I ATE THEM ALL IN A SINGLE HOUR.
YOU HAVE MORE FIGHT IN YOU.

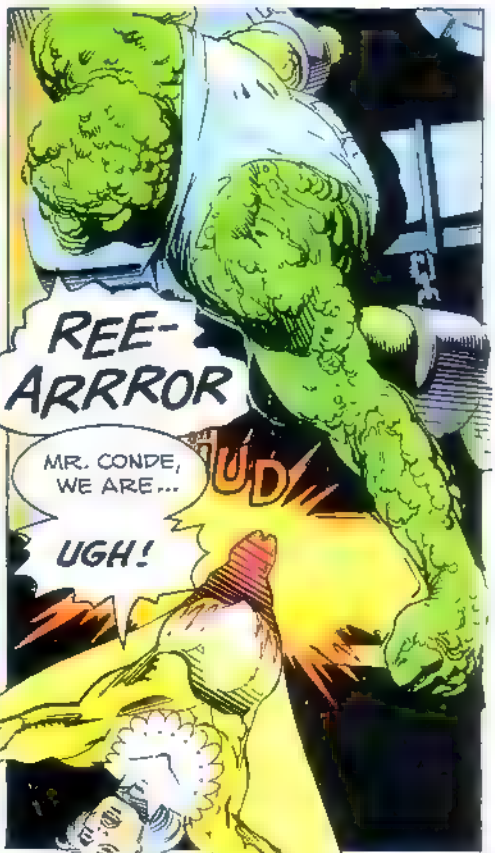

YOU ARE STILL NOTHING, MEAT!
HUARG!
DID YOU THINK, CONDE... . THE LARGEST CARNIVORE EVER TO WALK THE PLANET COULD BE SLAIN WITH A HUNTING KNIFE?
UH...THAT WAS MY PLAN.
STAY CLEAR.
GET HIM FOR GABRIEL!
I INTEND TO. . BUT NOT FOR THE REASONS YOU SUSPECT, CONDE.
THIS CREATURE ONCE RULED THIS PLANET WITH SAVAGE IMPUNITY, AND WOULD DO SO AGAIN!
HUMANITY WOULD BECOME FOOD...OR SLAVES!
THAT I CANNOT ALLOW. THE DAY OF THE DINOSAUR IS DONE!!

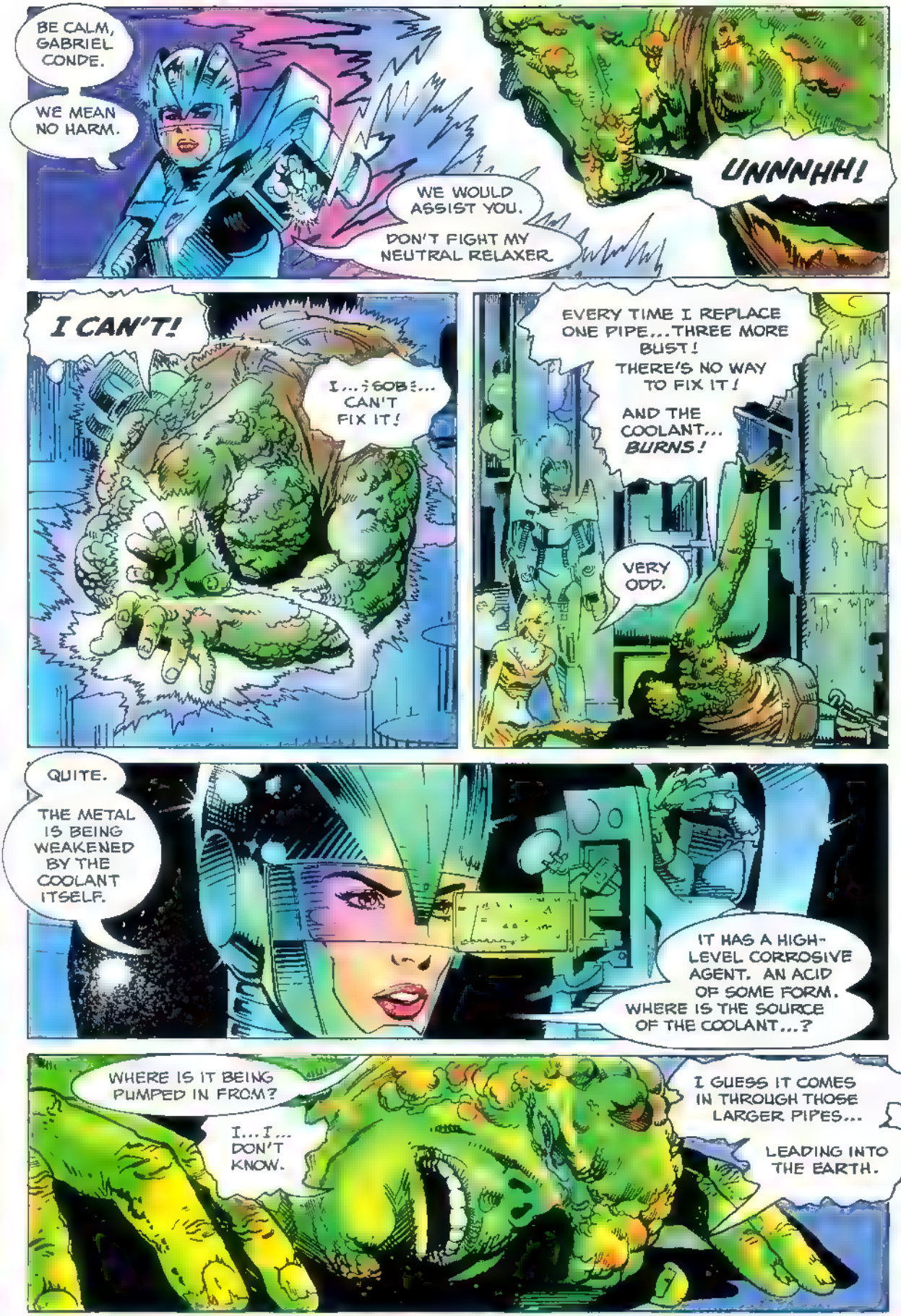

HE'S ESCAPING, MYSTIC!
GET AFTER HIM!
LATER, CONDE...

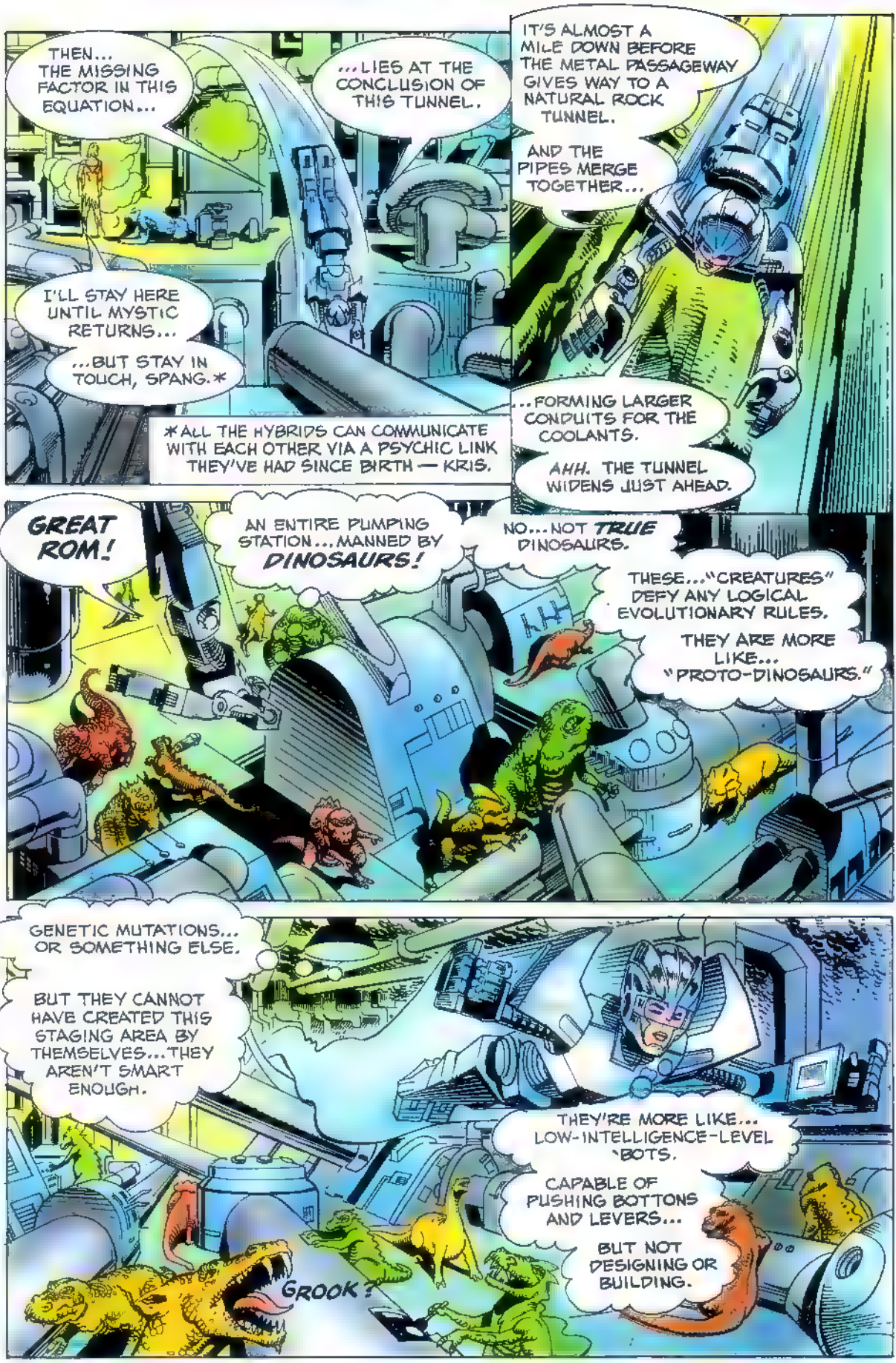

I MUST ATTEND TO THIS FAMILY.
WHY CARE FOR THE DEAD AND LET THEIR KILLER ESCAPE?

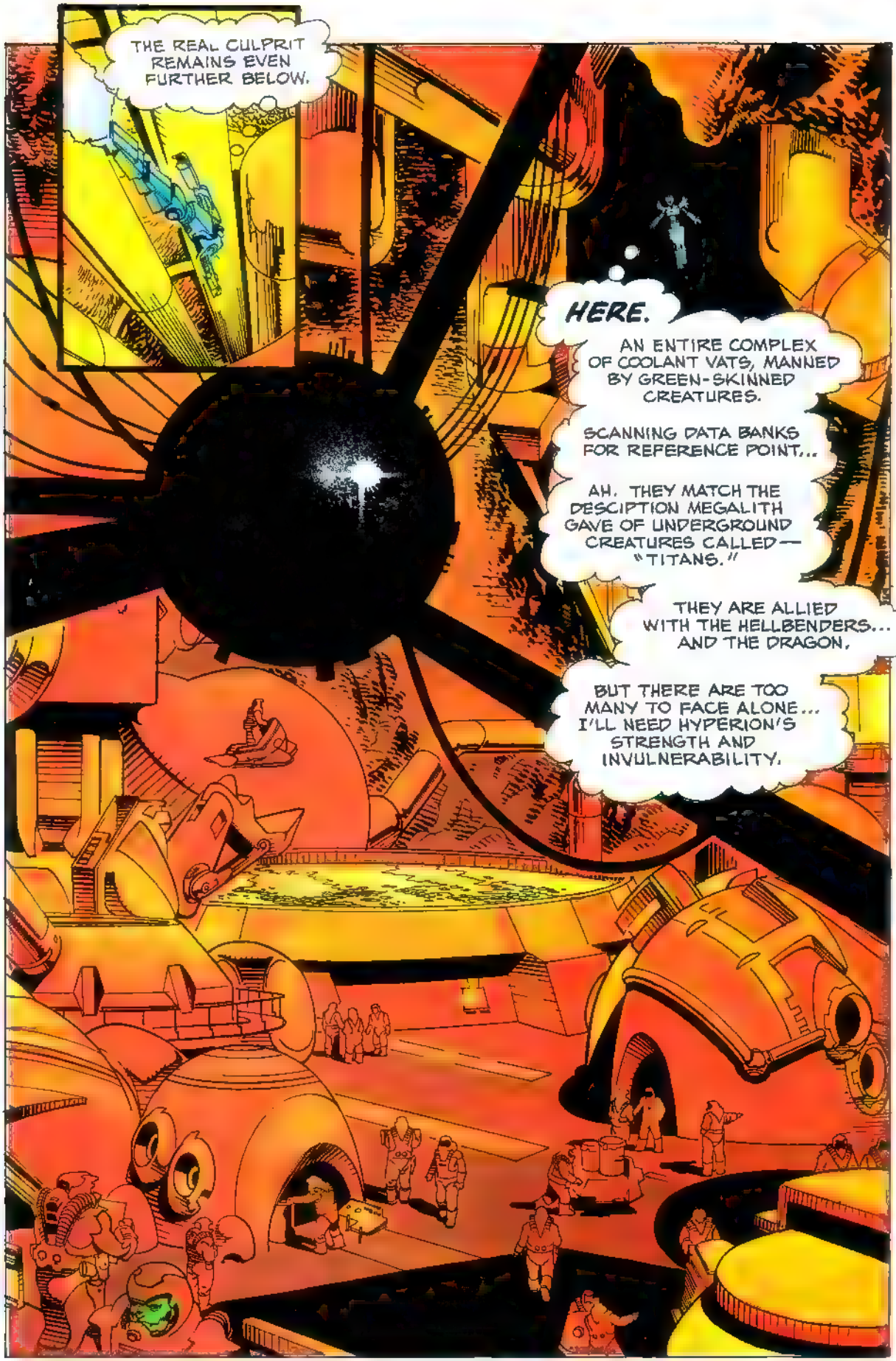
BECAUSE THEY AREN'T DEAD.
HUH?
SUSPENDED ANIMATION.
THEY APPEAR TO BE DEAD.

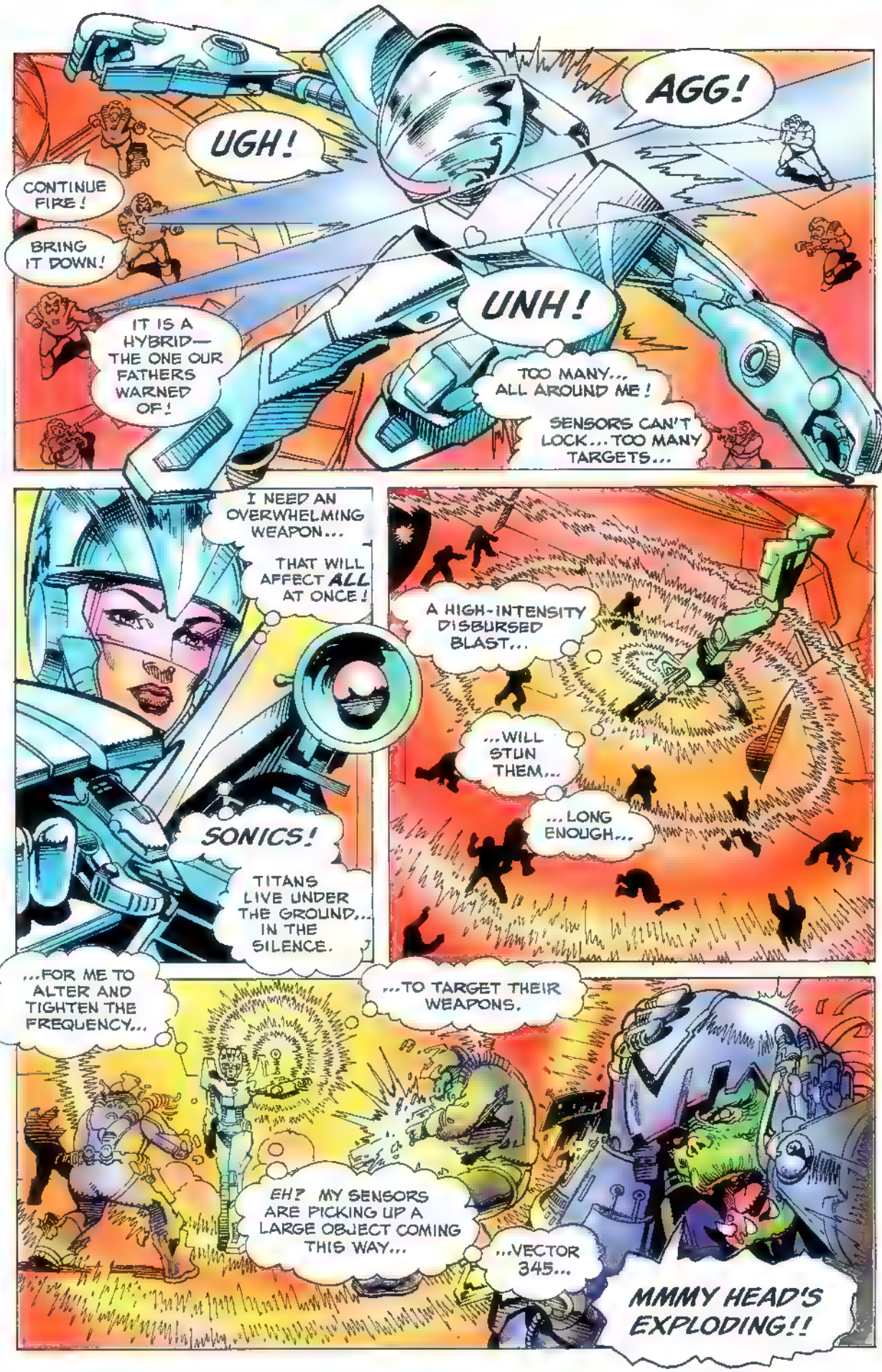
BELOW, IN THE CORE...
YEARG! ANOTHER LEAK!
HE APPEARS QUITE DISTURBED, HIGHPERION.
NOT A PROBLEM, SPANNG.
I'LL DEAL WITH HIM. I LOOK MORE HUMAN.
OH!
SORRY... I FORGOT.


REE-ARRROR
MR. CONDE, WE ARE...
UGH!


BE CALM, GABRIEL CONDE.
WE MEAN NO HARM.
WE WOULD ASSIST YOU.
DON'T FIGHT MY NEUTRAL RELAXER.
UNNNHH!
I CAN'T!
I...SOB!... CAN'T FIX IT!
EVERY TIME I REPLACE ONE PIPE...THREE MORE BUST!
THERE'S NO WAY TO FIX IT!
AND THE COOLANT... BURNS!
VERY ODD.
QUITE.
THE METAL IS BEING WEAKENED BY THE COOLANT ITSELF.
IT HAS A HIGH-LEVEL CORROSIVE AGENT. AN ACID OF SOME FORM. WHERE IS THE SOURCE OF THE COOLANT...?
WHERE IS IT BEING PUMPED IN FROM?
I...I... DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS IT COMES IN THROUGH THOSE LARGER PIPES...
LEADING INTO THE EARTH.


THEN... THE MISSING FACTOR IN THIS EQUATION...
...LIES AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS TUNNEL.
IT'S ALMOST A MILE DOWN BEFORE THE METAL PASSAGEWAY GIVES WAY TO A NATURAL ROCK TUNNEL.
AND THE PIPES MERGE TOGETHER...
I'LL STAY HERE UNTIL MYSTIC RETURNS...
...BUT STAY IN TOUCH, SPANG.*
*ALL THE HYBRIDS CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER VIA A PSYCHIC LINK THEY'VE HAD SINCE BIRTH — KRIS.
...FORMING LARGER CONDUITS FOR THE COOLANTS.
AHH. THE TUNNEL WIDENS JUST AHEAD.
GREAT ROM!
AN ENTIRE PUMPING STATION... MANNED BY DINOSAURS!
NO... NOT TRUE DINOSAURS.
THESE..."CREATURES" DEFY ANY LOGICAL EVOLUTIONARY RULES.
THEY ARE MORE LIKE... "PROTO-DINOSAURS."
GENETIC MUTATIONS... OR SOMETHING ELSE.
BUT THEY CANNOT HAVE CREATED THIS STAGING AREA BY THEMSELVES...THEY AREN'T SMART ENOUGH.
THEY'RE MORE LIKE... LOW-INTELLIGENCE-LEVEL 'BOTS.
CAPABLE OF PUSHING BOTTONS AND LEVERS...
BUT NOT DESIGNING OR BUILDING.
GROOK?

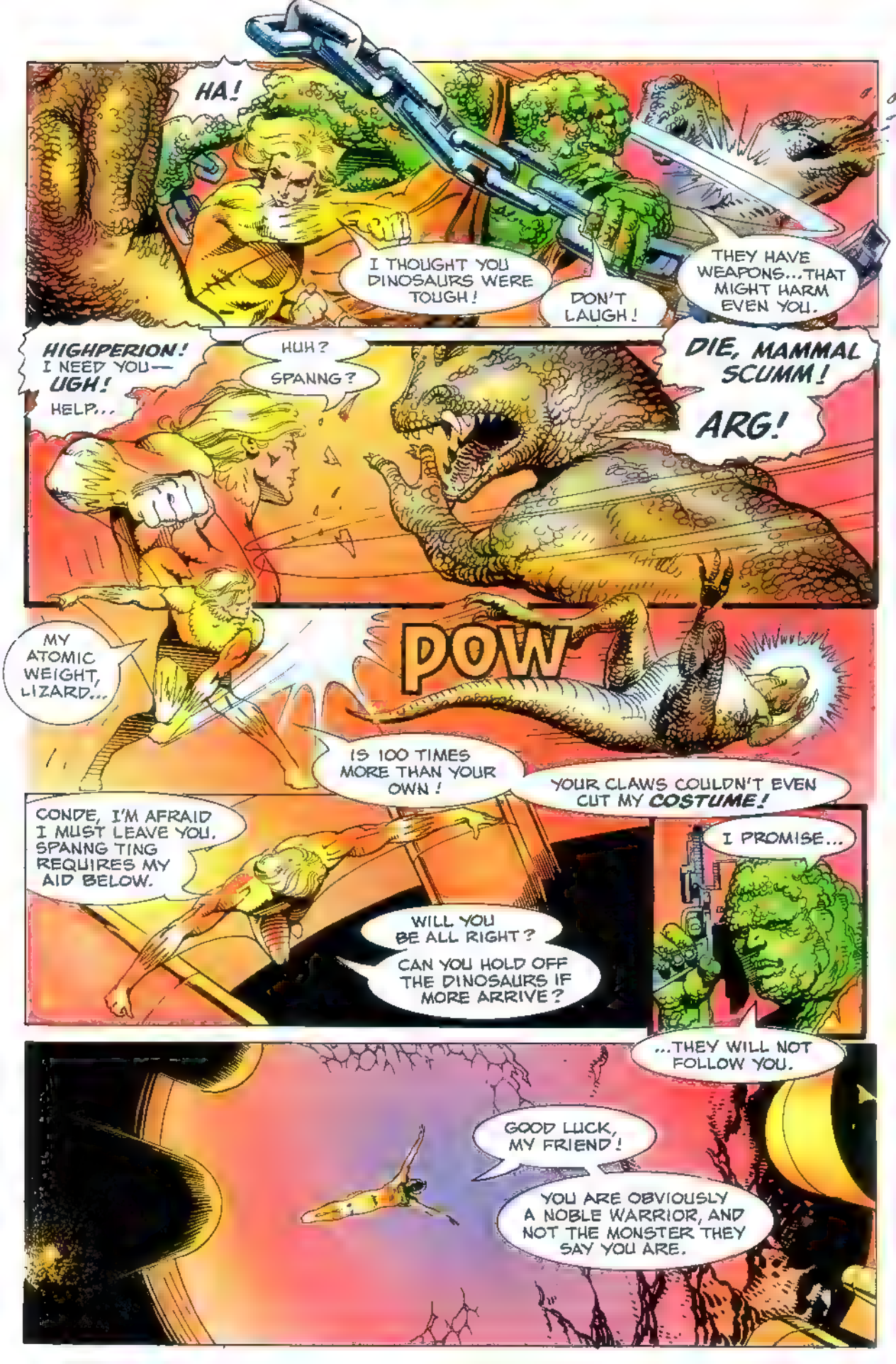

THE REAL CULPRIT REMAINS EVEN FURTHER BELOW.
HERE.
AN ENTIRE COMPLEX OF COOLANT VATS, MANNED BY GREEN-SKINNED CREATURES.
SCANNING DATA BANKS FOR REFERENCE POINT...
AH. THEY MATCH THE DESCIPTION MEGALITH GAVE OF UNDERGROUND CREATURES CALLED— "TITANS."
THEY ARE ALLIED WITH THE HELLBENDERS... AND THE DRAGON.
BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY TO FACE ALONE... I'LL NEED HYPERION'S STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY.


AGG!
UGH!
CONTINUE FIRE!
BRING IT DOWN!
UNH!
IT IS A HYBRID— THE ONE OUR FATHERS WARNED OF!
TOO MANY... ALL AROUND ME!
SENSORS CAN'T LOCK... TOO MANY TARGETS...
I NEED AN OVERWHELMING WEAPON...
THAT WILL AFFECT ALL AT ONCE!
SONICS!
TITANS LIVE UNDER THE GROUND... IN THE SILENCE.
A HIGH-INTENSITY DISBURSED BLAST...
...WILL STUN THEM...
...LONG ENOUGH...
...FOR ME TO ALTER AND TIGHTEN THE FREQUENCY...
...TO TARGET THEIR WEAPONS.
EH? MY SENSORS ARE PICKING UP A LARGE OBJECT COMING THIS WAY...
...VECTOR 345...
MMMY HEAD'S EXPLODING!!

DARROW EXPECTED YOU, HYBRID...
SHUNNG
ONE HUMAN ENCASED IN METAL IS A POOR JOKE!
...BUT HE SAID THERE WOULD BE MORE OF YOU!
BLESSED CYBERNAUTS!
HSSSSSS
FLOOOSH
AN ATTACK VEHICLE!
THEY WERE EXPECTING ME!
KLAMPP
YAH!
NOTHING...
CAN PENETRATE MY ARMOR!
IT'S... IMPOSSIBLE!
I'VE GOT TO EXTRACT IT... BEFORE..
THUNK!
HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

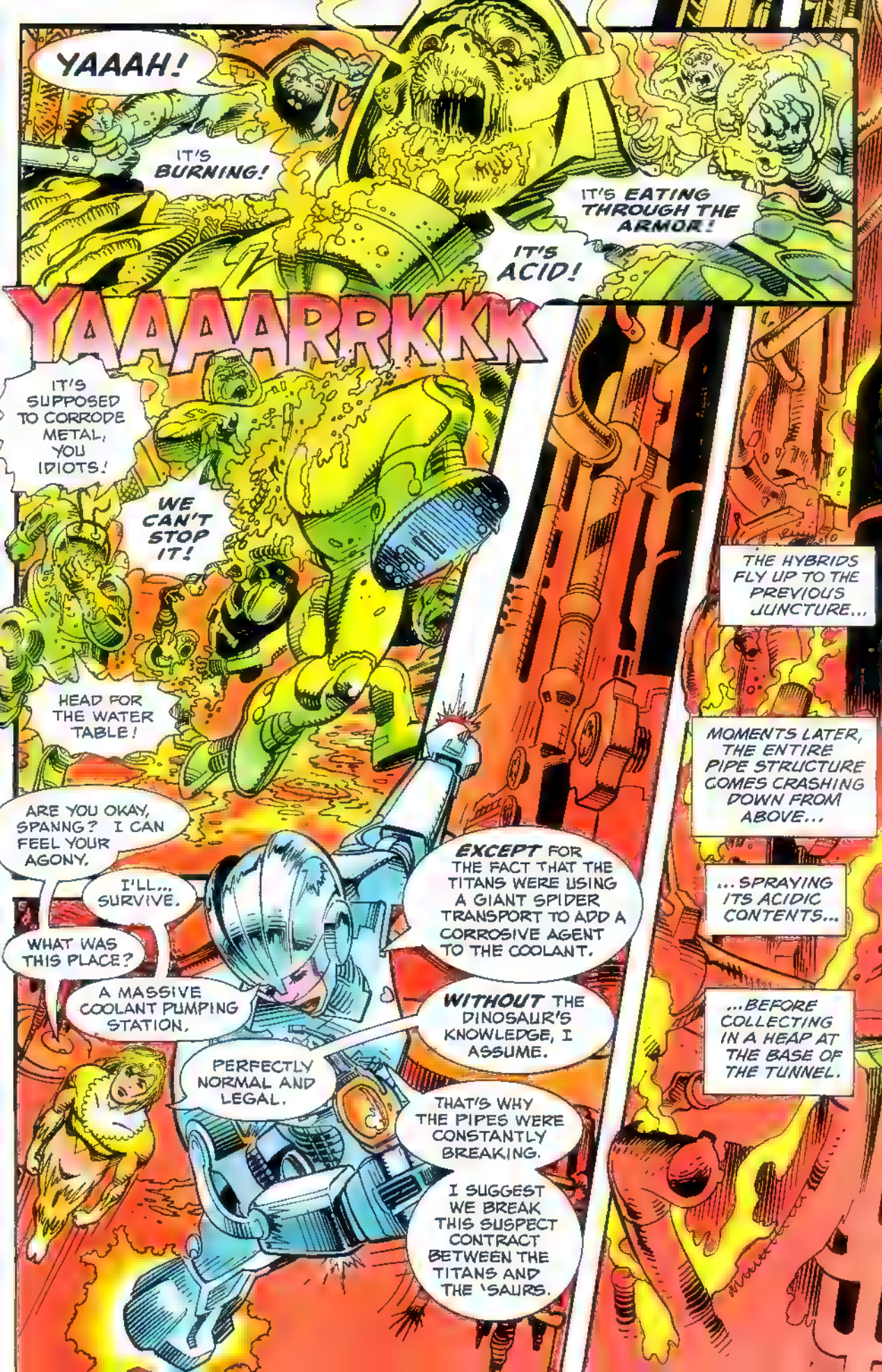
YEEAARRRG!
FLOOOSH!
THE SPIDER'S "PINCHER", HAVING PENETRATED SPANNG'S ARMOR, SHOOTS A STREAM OF MYSTERIOUS ALIEN FLUID ONTO THE HYBRID'S UNPROTECTED SKIN.
ACID!
CLANG!
FOOL! DO YOU THINK DEATH WILL COME ANY SLOWER...
...IF I IMPALE YOU WITH THIS ?!
YOUR ENTIRE RACE IS DOOMED... BUT YOU WON'T LIVE TO SEE THEM PERISH IN AGONY, HYBRID!
UNH!
BARELY BLOCKED IT... CAN'T FOCUS... ACID IS BURNING MY CIRCUITS...
IT'S PUMPING ACID... INTO MY ARMOR...
GASP!
BURNS...
LASER... SEVER IT...
MUST CHANNEL MY REMAINING ENERGY...
...INTO...

PERFECT! WITHOUT SEVERAL LIMBS...THE ARACHNID COLLAPSES.
NOOOOO!
YOU—YOU—YOU HUMAN!
YOU'RE ALL DEAD WITHIN A DAY!
YOUR PRECIOUS SURFACE WORLD WILL BE OURS!
KRAKK
KRAM
MY PLASMA BLASTERS!
MY TARGETING COMPUTER IS SCRAMBLED...
HAVE TO HOPE THE "RANDOM FACTOR" IS WITH ME THIS TIME!
SHUT UP, YOU MUTATED SUB-SPECIES!
IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT ALL ORGANICS ARE PRECIOUS...
I'D ERASE YOU LIKE A BAD DISK!
SMK

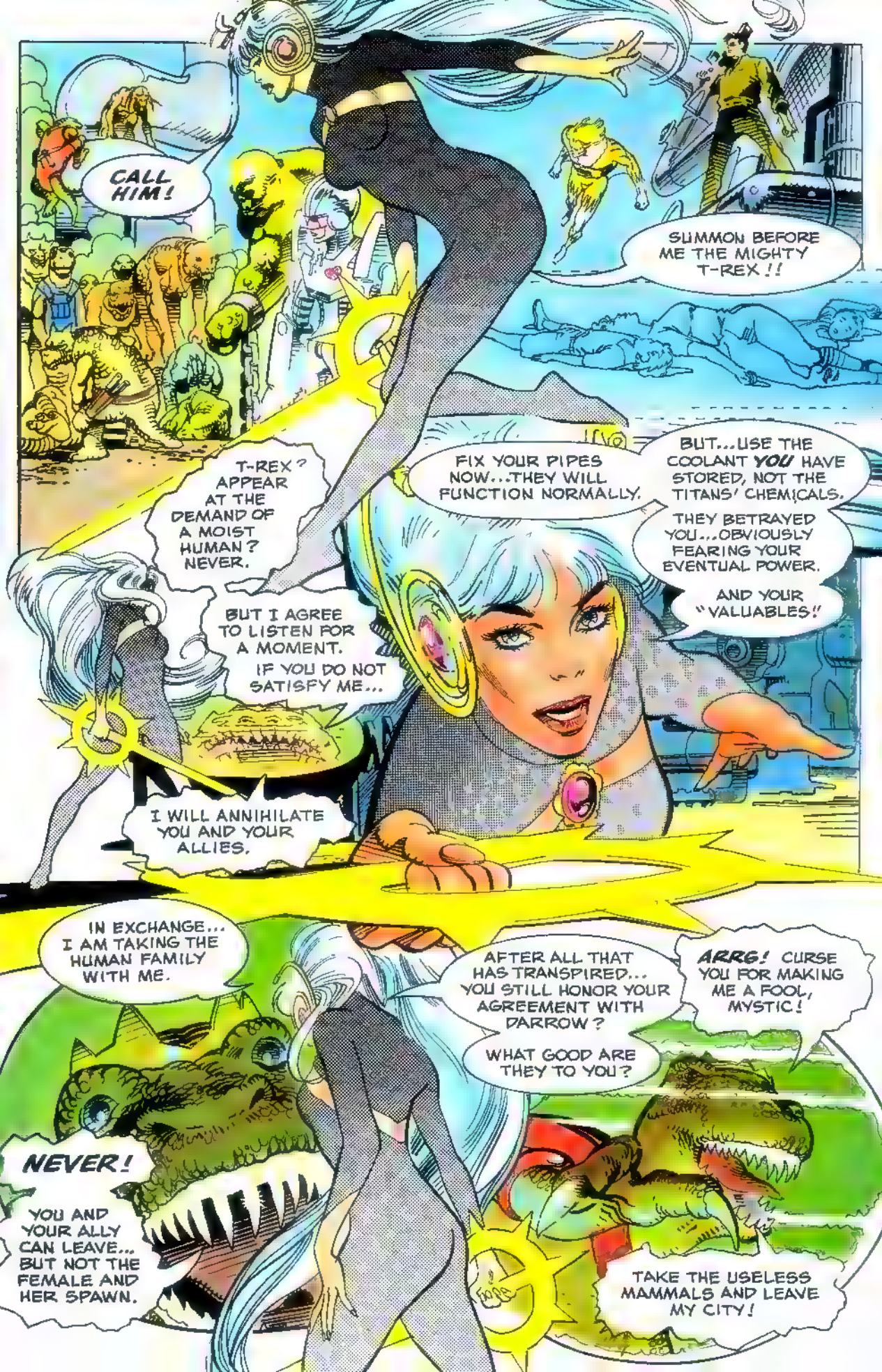

HA!
I THOUGHT YOU DINOSAURS WERE TOUGH!
DON'T LAUGH!
THEY HAVE WEAPONS...THAT MIGHT HARM EVEN YOU.
HIGHPERION! I NEED YOU— UGH! HELP...
HUH?
SPANNG?
DIE, MAMMAL SCUMM!
ARG!
POW
MY ATOMIC WEIGHT, LIZARD...
IS 100 TIMES MORE THAN YOUR OWN!
YOUR CLAWS COULDN'T EVEN CUT MY COSTUME!
CONDE, I'M AFRAID I MUST LEAVE YOU. SPANNG TING REQUIRES MY AID BELOW.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
CAN YOU HOLD OFF THE DINOSAURS IF MORE ARRIVE?
I PROMISE...
...THEY WILL NOT FOLLOW YOU.
GOOD LUCK, MY FRIEND!
YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY A NOBLE WARRIOR, AND NOT THE MONSTER THEY SAY YOU ARE.

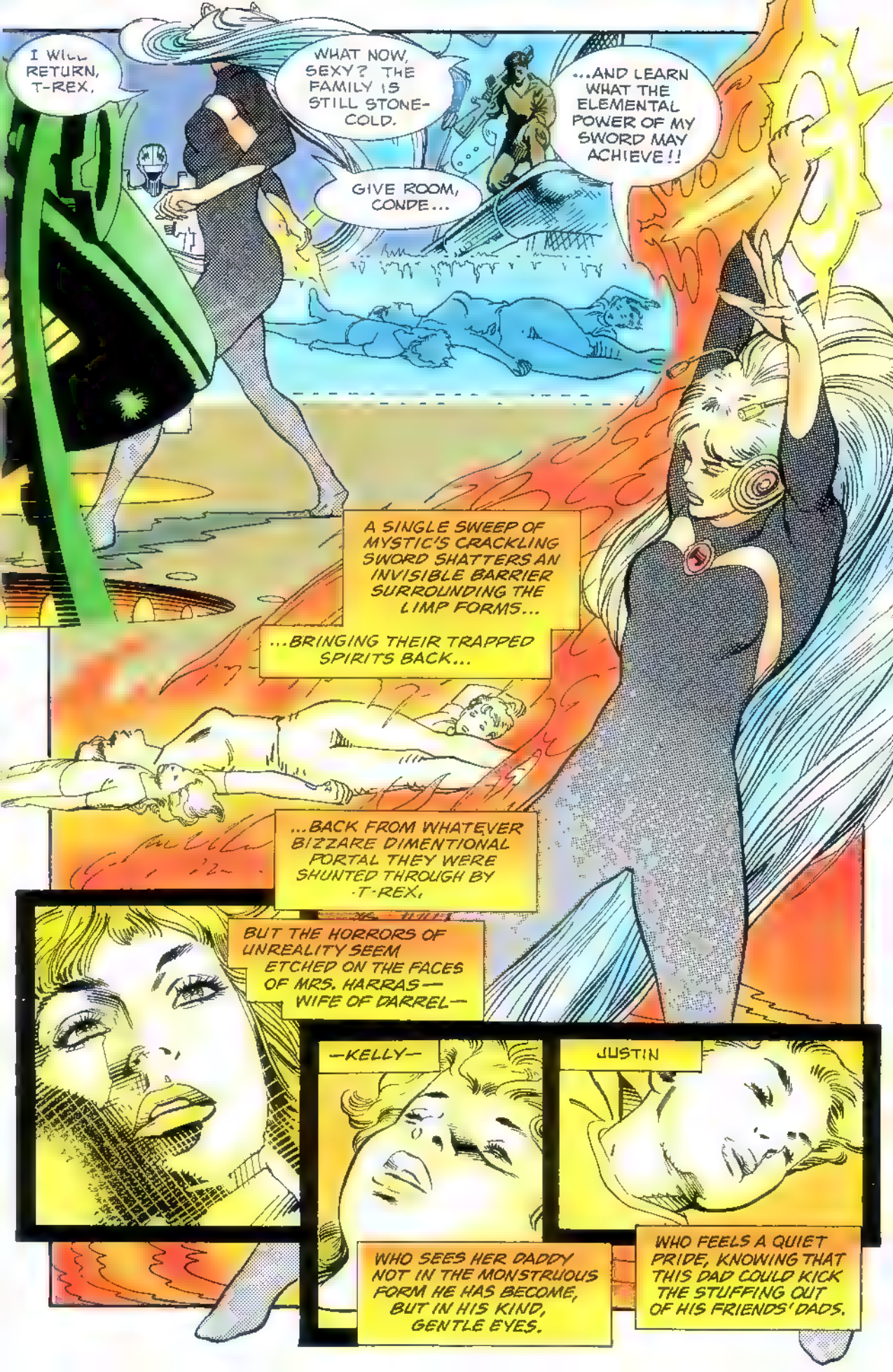
SPANNG? I CAN'T LOCATE YOU—TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE...
BUT I'M HERE.
THE VATS, HYPERION! FIND OUT WHAT'S IN THE VATS!
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, GLOWING BOY?
UNNH... MY HEAD...
EASY KILL! HE'S NOT EVEN AS TALL AS A HUMAN!
A YOUNGLING!
NOT AS TALL...? THAT'S NOT... TRUE.
I'M ONLY 15, SO I'M STILL GROWING.
BUT THAT WASN'T VERY NICE!
I'M SENSITIVE ABOUT MY... HEIGHT...
...YOU PUSS-FILLED, GREEN WART-BAGS!
HMM. AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO SPEND THE DAY CRUSHING THESE TITANS...
...I SUSPECT THAT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
GET HIM!

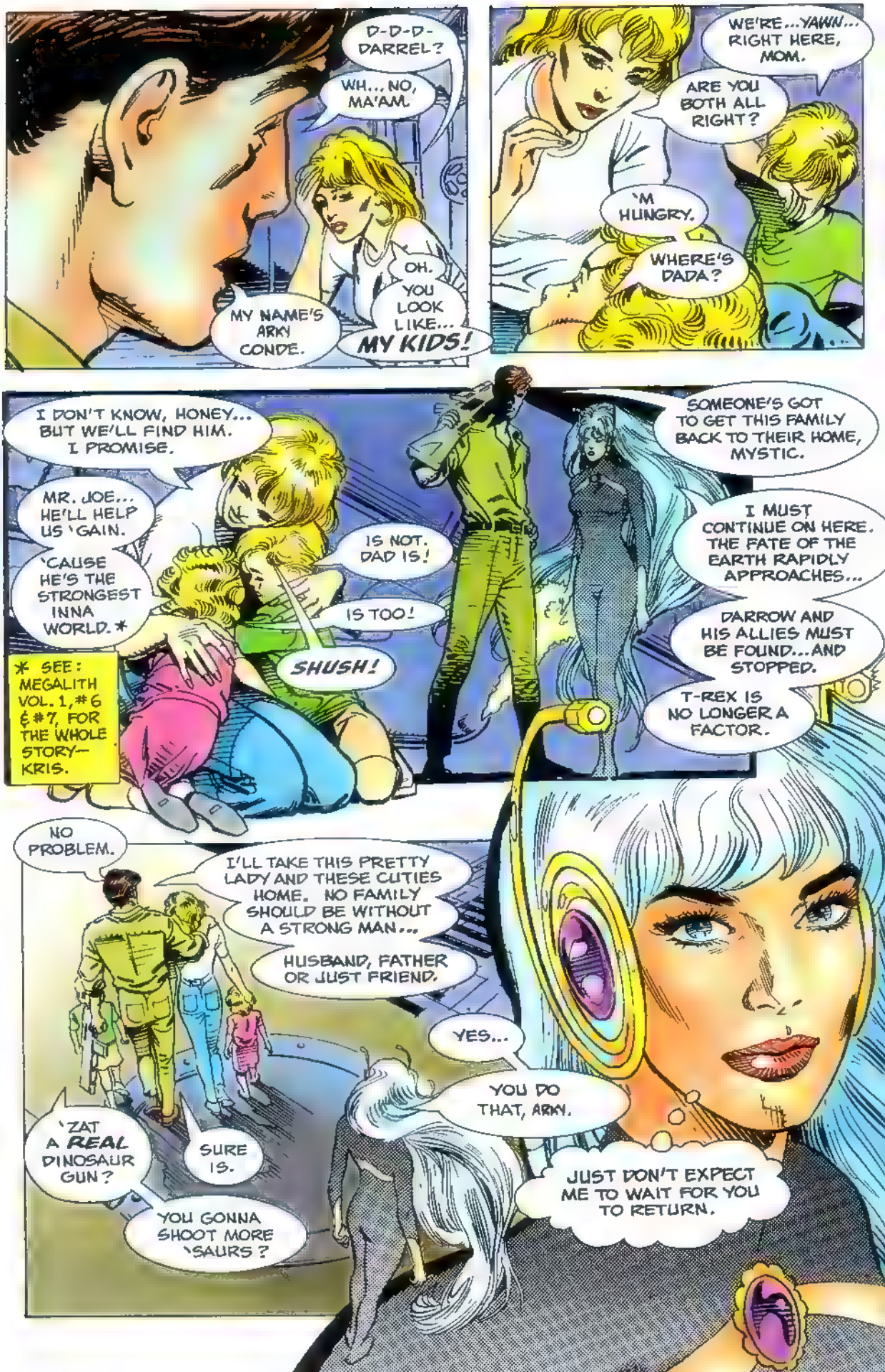
UHN!
FIRST—DISCONNECT THE PIPELINES LEADING TO THE SURFACE.
HE'S GONNA DESTROY THE VATS!
—THEN—
DISPOSE OF THIS TOXIC WASTE ON THE CREATURES THAT CREATED IT!
HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
AND SPANNG WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WAS INSIDE THESE VATS.
NOTHING GOOD, I'M SURE.
NO!
CRRASH
GET BACK!
YAH!

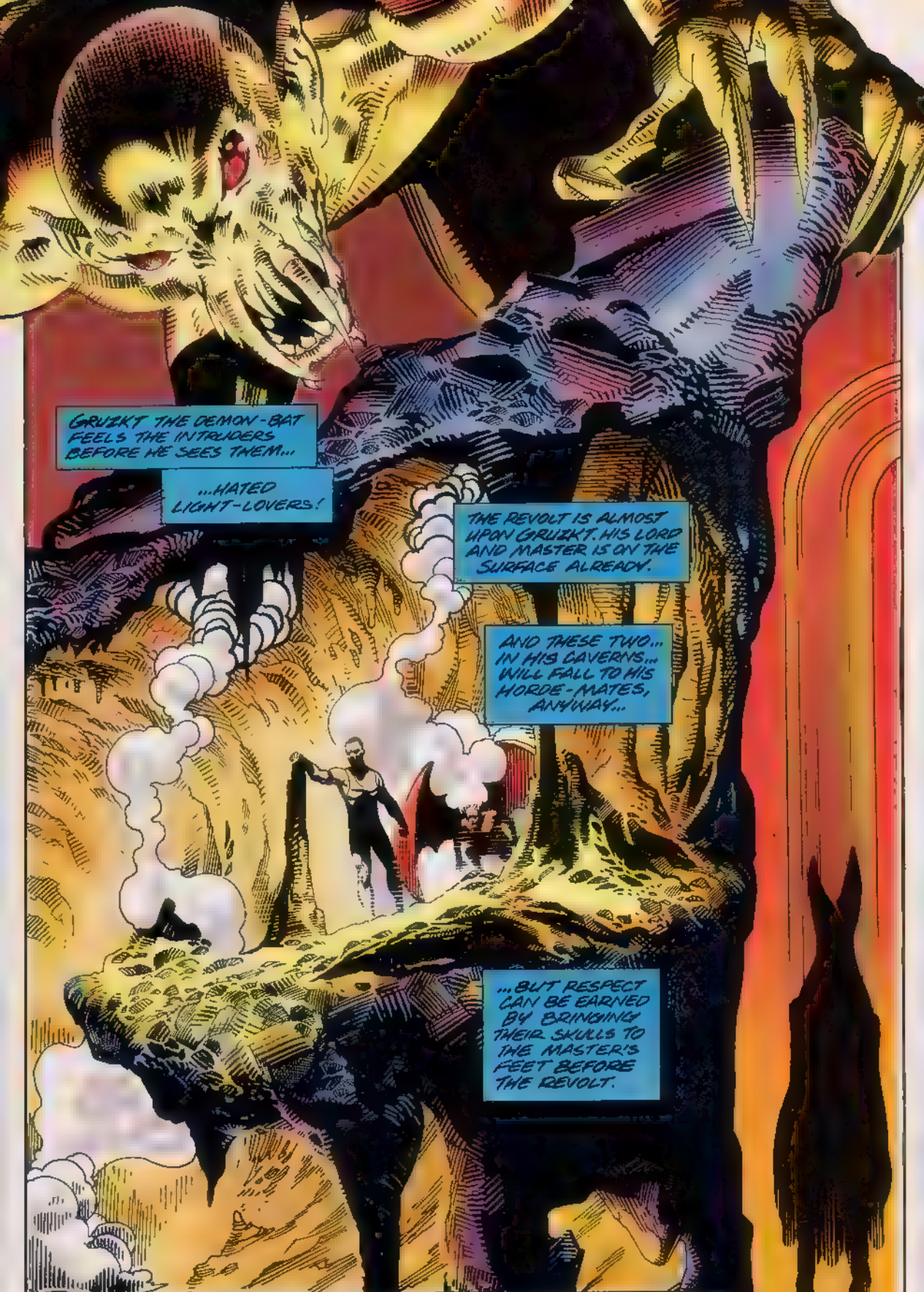

YAAAH!
IT'S BURNING!
IT'S EATING THROUGH THE ARMOR!
IT'S ACID!
YAAAARRKKK
IT'S SUPPOSED TO CORRODE METAL, YOU IDIOTS!
WE CAN'T STOP IT!
HEAD FOR THE WATER TABLE!
THE HYBRIDS FLY UP TO THE PREVIOUS JUNCTURE...
MOMENTS LATER, THE ENTIRE PIPE STRUCTURE COMES CRASHING DOWN FROM ABOVE...
...SPRAYING ITS ACIDIC CONTENTS...
...BEFORE COLLECTING IN A HEAP AT THE BASE OF THE TUNNEL.
ARE YOU OKAY, SPANNG? I CAN FEEL YOUR AGONY.
I'LL... SURVIVE.
WHAT WAS THIS PLACE?
A MASSIVE COOLANT PUMPING STATION.
PERFECTLY NORMAL AND LEGAL.
EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE TITANS WERE USING A GIANT SPIDER TRANSPORT TO ADD A CORROSIVE AGENT TO THE COOLANT.
WITHOUT THE DINOSAUR'S KNOWLEDGE, I ASSUME.
THAT'S WHY THE PIPES WERE CONSTANTLY BREAKING.
I SUGGEST WE BREAK THIS SUSPECT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TITANS AND THE 'SAURS.

GET BACK!
GATHER YOUR ENERGIES, SPANNG!
CONDE IS ON THE VERGE OF BEING...
OVERWHELMED BY THE DINOSAURS!
AFFIRMATIVE.
TWO GRIM HYBRIDS HURL THEMSELVES INTO THE FRAY, EACH STRIKING IN ITS OWN UNIQUE MANNER...
...BUT EACH SENSES THE OTHER'S PLAN THE MOMENT IT IS CONCEIVED... A PERFECT SYNTHESIS OF WARRIORS.
HALT THIS SENSELESS CONFLICT!
I HAVE A SOLUTION— BUT ONLY YOUR LEADER WILL UNDERSTAND!


CALL HIM!
SUMMON BEFORE ME THE MIGHTY T-REX!!
T-REX? APPEAR AT THE DEMAND OF A MOIST HUMAN? NEVER.
FIX YOUR PIPES NOW...THEY WILL FUNCTION NORMALLY.
BUT...USE THE COOLANT YOU HAVE STORED, NOT THE TITANS' CHEMICALS.
THEY BETRAYED YOU...OBVIOUSLY FEARING YOUR EVENTUAL POWER.
AND YOUR "VALUABLES!"
BUT I AGREE TO LISTEN FOR A MOMENT.
IF YOU DO NOT SATISFY ME...
I WILL ANNIHILATE YOU AND YOUR ALLIES.
IN EXCHANGE... I AM TAKING THE HUMAN FAMILY WITH ME.
AFTER ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED... YOU STILL HONOR YOUR AGREEMENT WITH DARROW?
WHAT GOOD ARE THEY TO YOU?
ARRG! CURSE YOU FOR MAKING ME A FOOL, MYSTIC!
NEVER!
YOU AND YOUR ALLY CAN LEAVE... BUT NOT THE FEMALE AND HER SPAWN.
TAKE THE USELESS MAMMALS AND LEAVE MY CITY!


I WILL RETURN, T-REX.
WHAT NOW, SEXY? THE FAMILY IS STILL STONE-COLD.
GIVE ROOM, CONDE...
...AND LEARN WHAT THE ELEMENTAL POWER OF MY SWORD MAY ACHIEVE!!
A SINGLE SWEEP OF MYSTIC'S CRACKLING SWORD SHATTERS AN INVISIBLE BARRIER SURROUNDING THE LIMP FORMS...
...BRINGING THEIR TRAPPED SPIRITS BACK...
...BACK FROM WHATEVER BIZZARE DIMENTIONAL PORTAL THEY WERE SHUNTED THROUGH BY T-REX.
BUT THE HORRORS OF UNREALITY SEEM ETCHED ON THE FACES OF MRS. HARRAS— WIFE OF DARREL—
—KELLY—
JUSTIN
WHO SEES HER DADDY NOT IN THE MONSTRUOUS FORM HE HAS BECOME, BUT IN HIS KIND, GENTLE EYES.
WHO FEELS A QUIET PRIDE, KNOWING THAT THIS DAD COULD KICK THE STUFFING OUT OF HIS FRIENDS' DADS.


D-D-D-DARREL?
WH... NO, MA'AM.
OH. YOU LOOK LIKE... MY KIDS!
MY NAME'S ARKY CONDE.
WE'RE...YAWN... RIGHT HERE, MOM.
ARE YOU BOTH ALL RIGHT?
'M HUNGRY.
WHERE'S DADA?
I DON'T KNOW, HONEY... BUT WE'LL FIND HIM. I PROMISE.
MR. JOE... HE'LL HELP US 'GAIN.
'CAUSE HE'S THE STRONGEST INNA WORLD.*
IS NOT. DAD IS!
IS TOO!
SHUSH!
* SEE: MEGALITH VOL. 1, #6 & #7, FOR THE WHOLE STORY— KRIS.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO GET THIS FAMILY BACK TO THEIR HOME, MYSTIC.
I MUST CONTINUE ON HERE. THE FATE OF THE EARTH RAPIDLY APPROACHES...
DARROW AND HIS ALLIES MUST BE FOUND...AND STOPPED.
T-REX IS NO LONGER A FACTOR.
NO PROBLEM.
I'LL TAKE THIS PRETTY LADY AND THESE CUTIES HOME. NO FAMILY SHOULD BE WITHOUT A STRONG MAN...
HUSBAND, FATHER OR JUST FRIEND.
YES...
YOU DO THAT, ARKY.
JUST DON'T EXPECT ME TO WAIT FOR YOU TO RETURN.
'ZAT A REAL DINOSAUR GUN?
SURE IS.
YOU GONNA SHOOT MORE 'SAURS?



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HIS WILL BE THE SWEETEST KILL OF ALL...

...FIRST KILL!

...THE SOFT FLESHY ONE WILL BE SOOO EASY.

THE THREAT-WARNING TRIGGERS AN ELECTRO-CHEMICAL REACTION IN THE YOUNG HYBRID'S BRAIN--

-INSTANTLY TRANSFORMING THE MOST CALM AND MILD MEMBER OF THE HYBRIDS INTO A SNARLING, SLASHING WHIRLWIND OF TERROR AND-

-UNCONTROLABLE VIOLENCE NAMED-

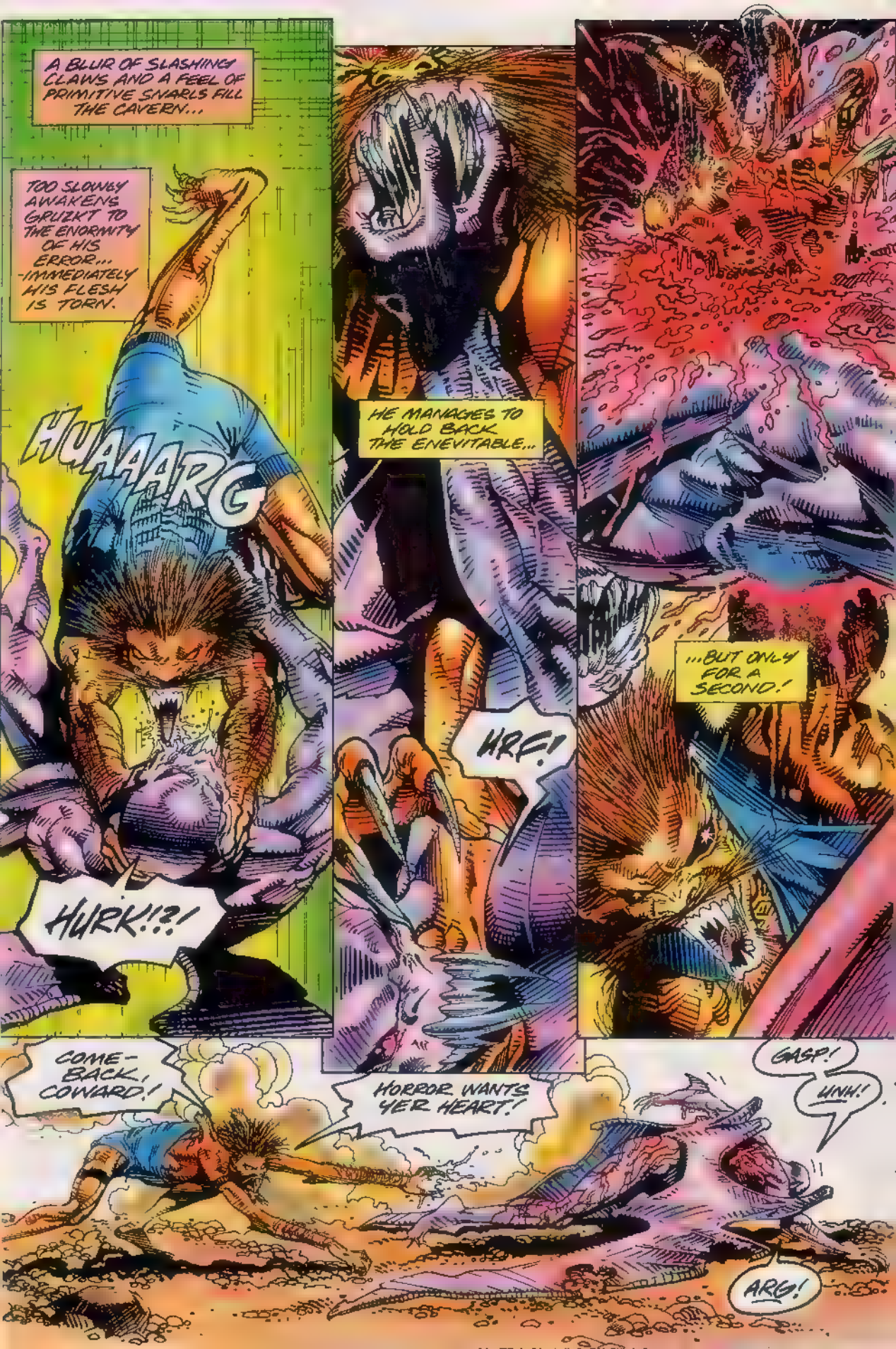
HORROR

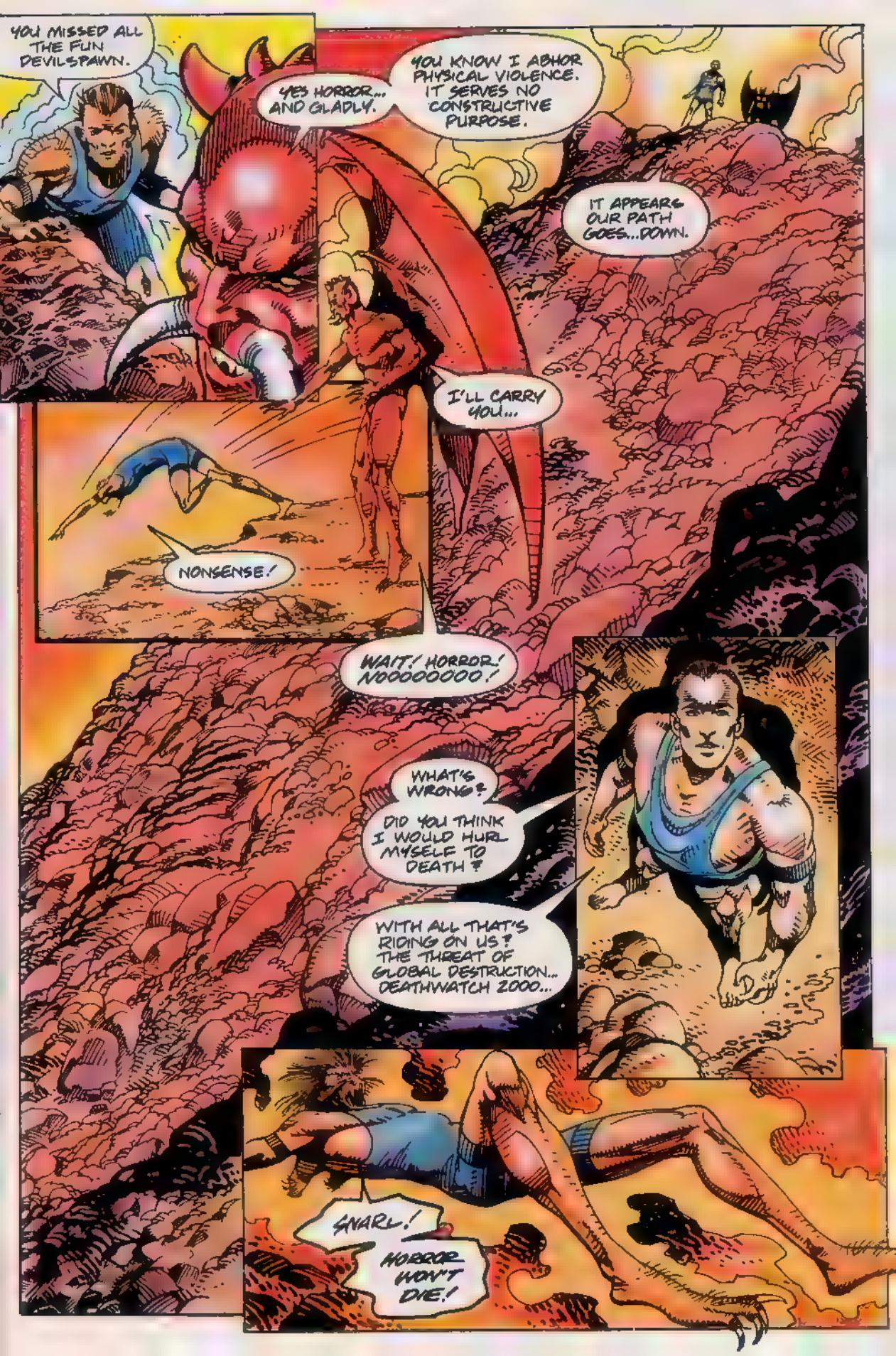
HORROR! LOOK OUT!

HUH?

FLYING CREA...

...TURE.


A BLUR OF SLASHING CLAWS AND A FEEL OF PRIMITIVE SNARLS FILL THE CAVERN...
TOO SLOWLY AWAKENS GRUZKT TO THE ENORMITY OF HIS ERROR... -IMMEDIATELY HIS FLESH IS TORN.
HUAAARG
HURK!?!
HE MANAGES TO HOLD BACK THE ENEVITABLE...
HRF!
...BUT ONLY FOR A SECOND!
COME-BACK, COWARD!
HORROR WANTS YER HEART!
GASP!
UNH!
ARG!

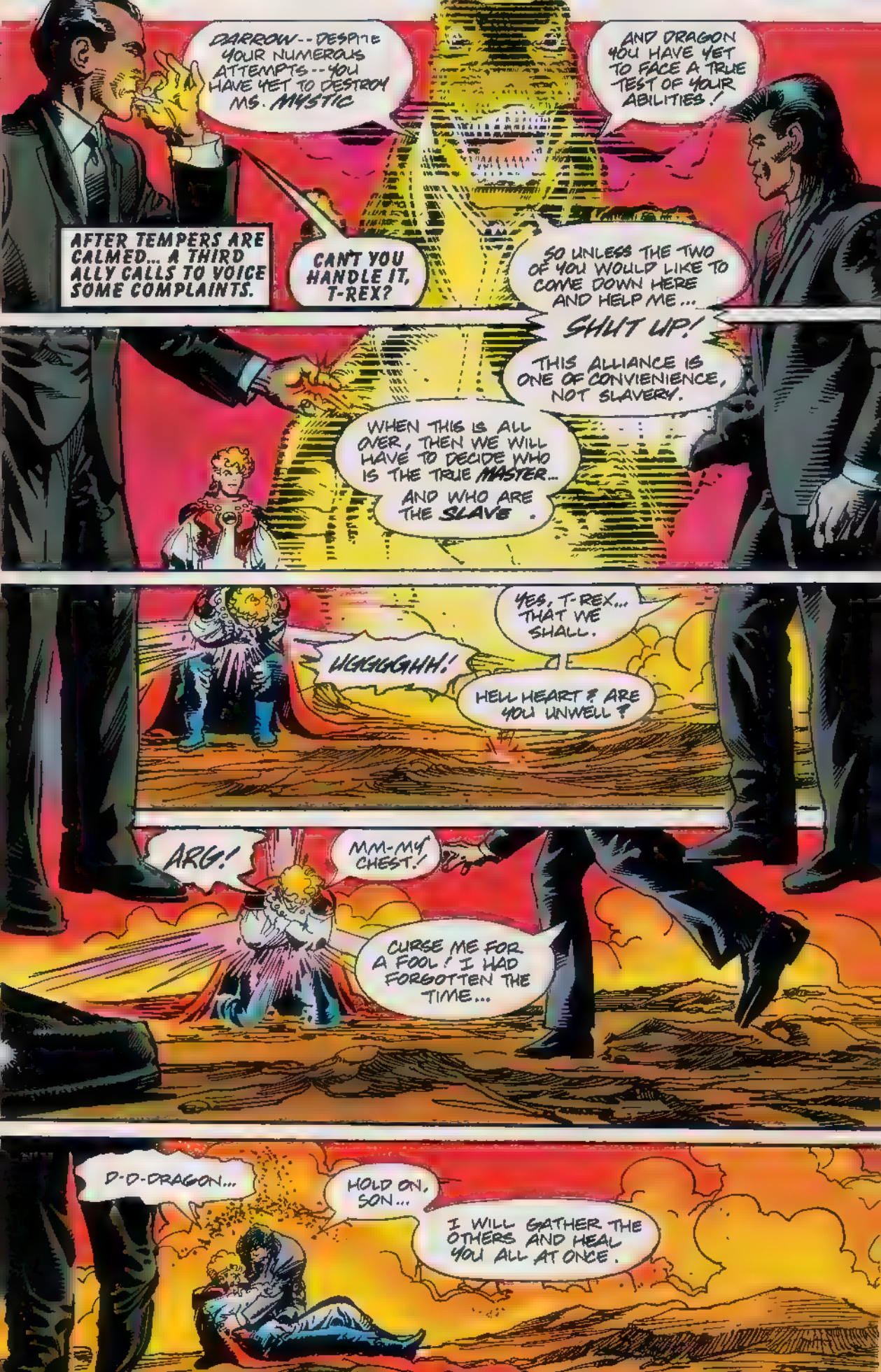

YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN DEVILSPAWN.
YES HORROR... AND GLADLY.
YOU KNOW I ABHOR PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. IT SERVES NO CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE.
IT APPEARS OUR PATH GOES...DOWN.
I'LL CARRY YOU...
NONSENSE!
WAIT! HORROR! NOOOOOOOO!
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID YOU THINK I WOULD HURL MYSELF TO DEATH?
WITH ALL THAT'S RIDING ON US? THE THREAT OF GLOBAL DESTRUCTION... DEATHWATCH 2000...
SNARL!
HORROR WON'T DIE!

CURSE THEM!
THOSE IDIOT HYBRIDS STILL DEFY ME!
BUT MASTER, SURELY THEY ARE NO SERIOUS THREAT TO YOU?!
OF COURSE NOT, HELLHEART!
THEY ARE NOTHING TO ME... OR THE PLAN!
WHAT DOES CONCERN ME, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE MY ALLIES.
HERE I AM--
DRAGON...
MERE HOURS FROM THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF PLANNING...
...THE ACCELERATION OF THIS PLANET'S NATURAL DESTRUCTION, DEATHWATCH 2000...
AS WELL AS BEING THE ARCHITECT OF THE MOST POWERFUL TRIUMVERANT IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD--
--WAITING... FOR A SOULLESS DEMON.

DARROW--
YOU SOULESS, CRETIN... WHERE ARE YOU?!
I COULD..."FIND" HIM MASTER.
NO, MY BOY.
I REFUSE TO GIVE THAT FOOL THE SATISFACTION OF MY... CONCERN.
A GRUESOME TITAN SPEAKS TO ME?
ARE-
-YOU-
-SERIOUS-
-YOU MISHAPEN, TROLL FACED IDIOT!?!
YOU DO NOT TALK ABOUT DARROW LIKE THAT! HE IS YOUR MASTER!
EH?
I-I-I-
YOUR "MASTER" CAN'T EVEN KILL SOME WAYWARD FEMALE ELEMENTAL...
...WHILE I...
WHILE I...
...I AM THE SCARIEST DAMN THING THIS SAD PLANET'S EVER SEEN!
WHUG!

GET, IT?
GOT-IT!
GOOD!
NOW-THE REST OF YOU COWARD-LY DOGS!
BRING ME DARROW OR I'LL FRY YOU INTO DEFORMED LUMPS OF SLUDGE!!
YOU'RE SPEAKING TO THE FUTURE CITIZENS OF THE SURFACE WORLD "PARTNER!"
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO CURB THAT NASTY TEMPER...
LEST IT DESTROY YOU.
ABOUT BLOODY TIME, DARROW!
I AM NOT A SERVANT, MASON GRAVES-- TO BE SUMMONED WHEN THE MOOD STRIKES YOU.
OH?
YOUR MOUTH, DARROW, WILL BE YOUR EXECUTIONER...

OR PERHAPS IT WILL BE MY MOUTH.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO THREATEN ME DRAGON...
BE DIRECT..
..I ALWAYS AM.
SO...
THE WORM HAS TRICKS.
FWOOM
BUT THIS IS NOT THE TIME OF TESTING
THE CREATURE AND THE HYBRID HAVE BRECHED THE UNDERWORLD.
PERHAPS. BUT ONLY THROUGH THE SOUTH POLE.
IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED... WHY NOT SEND THAT MAN MONSTER OF YOURS TO STOP THEM?
THE BEAST BALKS..
AS IF TESTING MY RESOLVE.
IT EVEN SIDED WITH MEGALITH FOR A TIME.*
* SEE MEN #0 AND #1 ARMS.
EVEN THOUGH I HAD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN KIDNAPPED...
...HE WANTS TO SEE I'LL ACTUALLY KILL THEM!


DARROW--DESPITE YOUR NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS--YOU HAVE YET TO DESTROY MS. MYSTIC
AND DRAGON YOU HAVE YET TO FACE A TRUE TEST OF YOUR ABILITIES!
AFTER TEMPERS ARE CALMED... A THIRD ALLY CALLS TO VOICE SOME COMPLAINTS.
CAN'T YOU HANDLE IT, T-REX?
SO UNLESS THE TWO OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME DOWN HERE AND HELP ME...
SHUT UP!
THIS ALLIANCE IS ONE OF CONVIENIENCE, NOT SLAVERY.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHO IS THE TRUE MASTER...
AND WHO ARE THE SLAVE.
YES, T-REX... THAT WE SHALL.
UGGGGGHH!
HELL HEART? ARE YOU UNWELL?
ARG!
MM-MY CHEST!
CURSE ME FOR A FOOL! I HAD FORGOTTEN THE TIME...
D-D-DRAGON...
HOLD ON, SON...
I WILL GATHER THE OTHERS AND HEAL YOU ALL AT ONCE.

HELLBENDER

A BEAM OF PURE MENTAL ENERGY BLASTS OUT OF DRAGON'S HEAD...

ARCING UP...

...THEN DOWN TOWARD A TECHNICAL RING...

...HIDDEN IN A NEARBY VALLEY...

...AND IMPACTING WITH FOUR OTHER MINDS...

...WHO ARE THE ONLY BEINGS ON THE PLANET..

...WHO CAN HEAR THE DRAGON'S TELEPATHIC CALLING, FOR THEY ARE THE SAME...

...CHILDREN OF MAGIC AND RADIATION.

AT LAST! THE MAGIC FIRE IN MY BODY...

IS CONSUMING ME.

I NEED..

WE ARE ALL IN NEED, HELLFIRE.

MYSELF... I AM BARELY ABLE TO CONTAIN MY OWN ENERGY.

UMPH.

MY SKIN IS FALLING OFF IN SLABS.

PERHAPS THIS TIME...

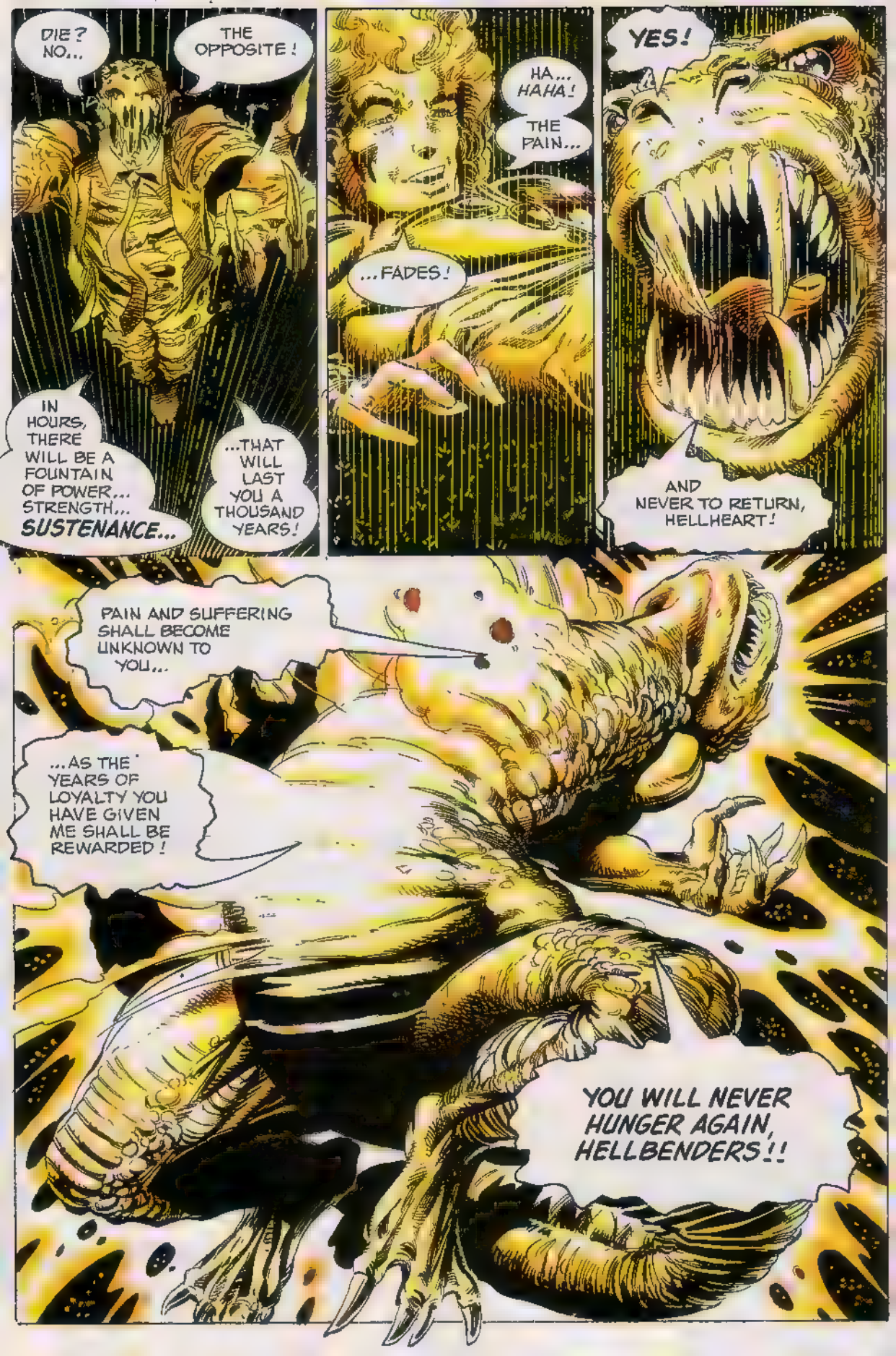
I CANNOT BE REJUVINATED.

FATALISTIC, LEPER.

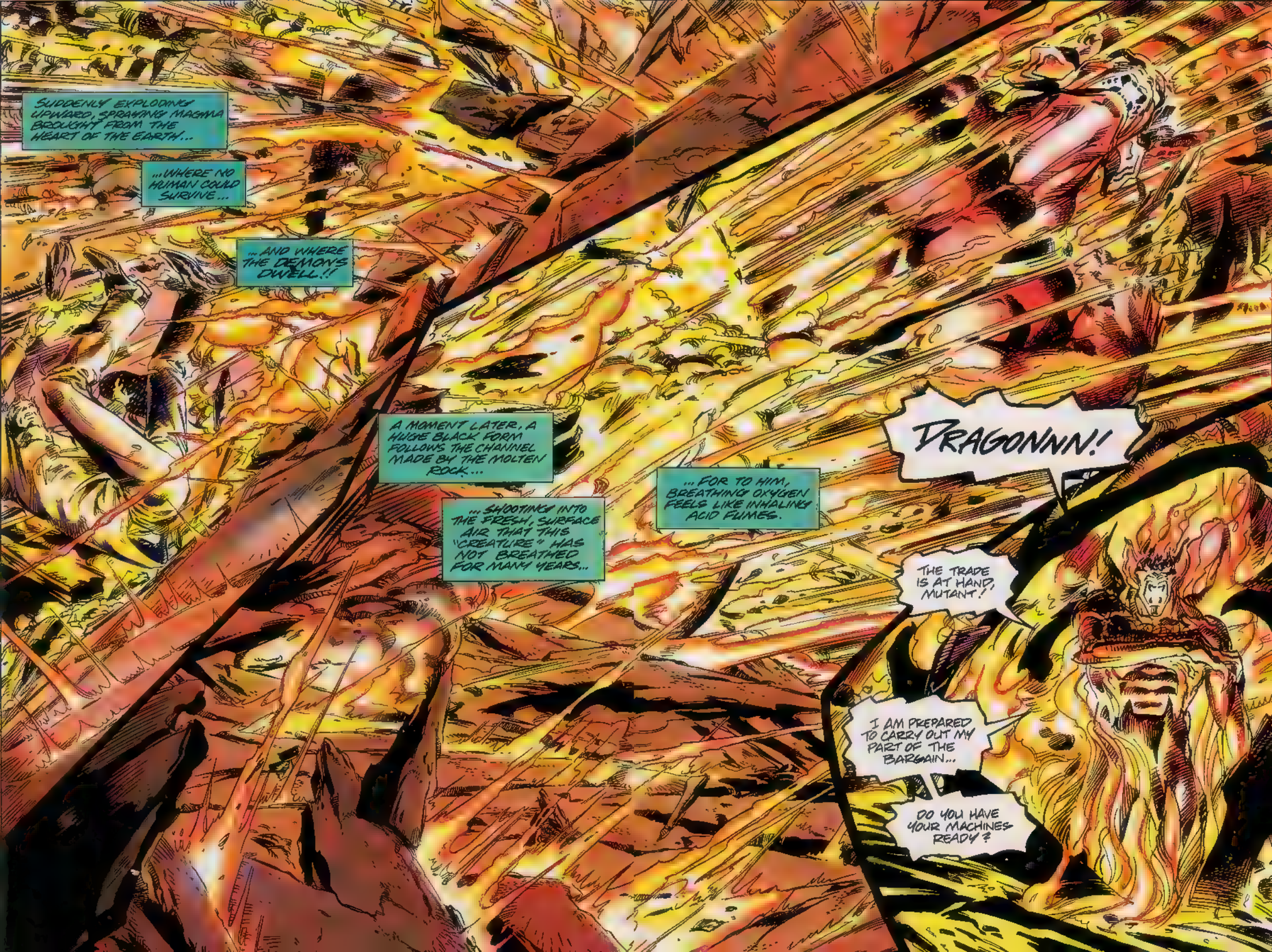
EVEN WITH MY SKIN HARDENING...

...I DON'T GIVE UP HOPE.

IN MOMENTS...
QUICKLY, MY CHILDREN...
GATHER 'ROUND YOUR FALLEN COMRADE...
HELLHEART!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?! HAS HE... GONE TOO FAR?!
NO, DEAR REM. I'M AFRAID I ASKED TOO MUCH OF MY ADOPTED SON... AND THE RADIATION TOOK OVER HIS HEART.
HE WILL BE FINE IN A MOMENT
BUT HEAR THESE WORDS, HELLBENDERS..
THIS SHALL BE THE LAST SHOWER... THE LAST GIFT OF LIFE FROM THE DRAGON!
LAST?
WE DON'T... UNDERSTAND...
WE'LL... DIE, MASTER!

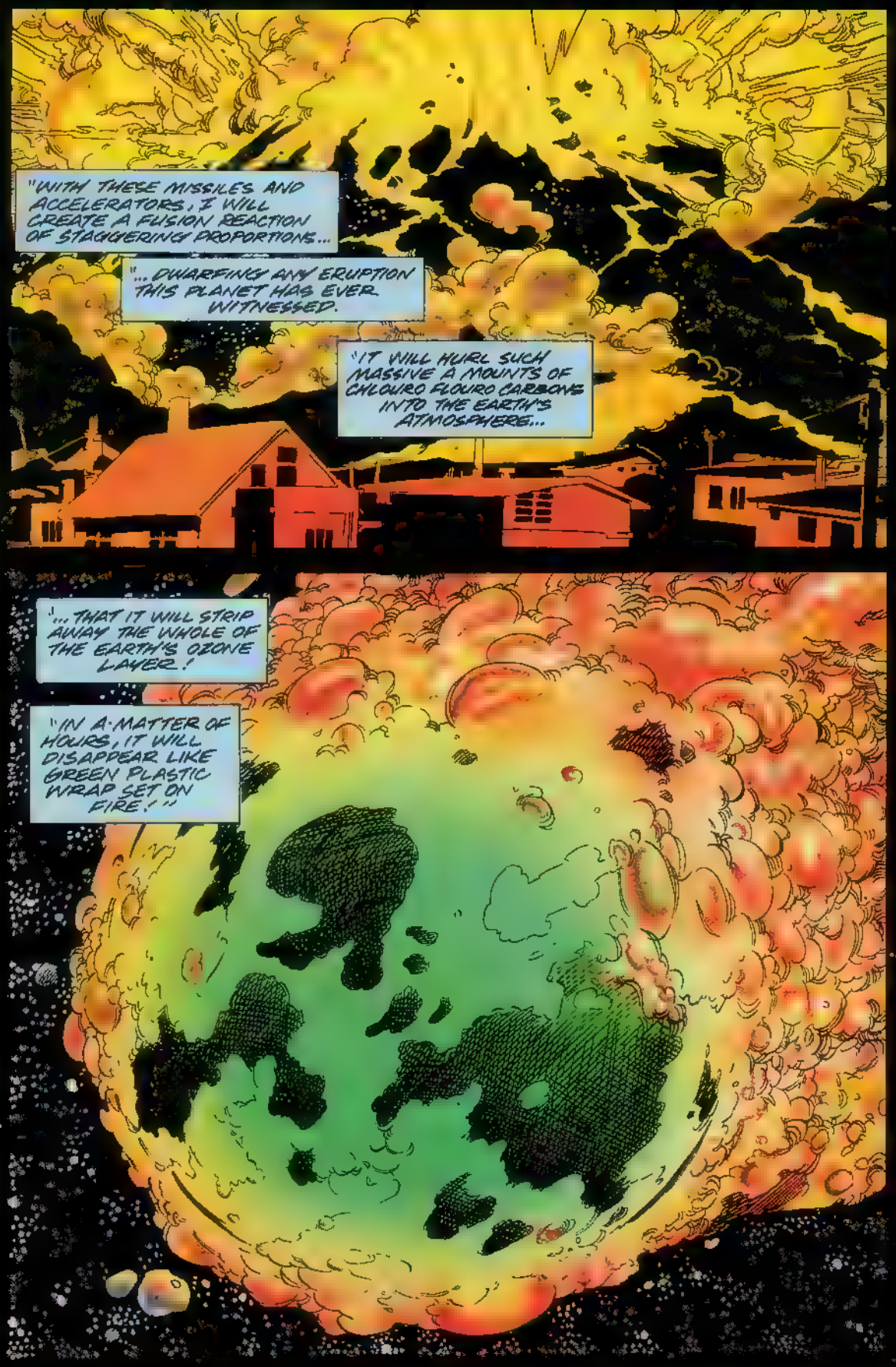

DIE? NO...
THE OPPOSITE!
IN HOURS, THERE WILL BE A FOUNTAIN OF POWER... STRENGTH... SUSTENANCE...
...THAT WILL LAST YOU A THOUSAND YEARS!
HA... HAHA!
THE PAIN...
...FADES!
YES!
AND NEVER TO RETURN, HELLHEART!
PAIN AND SUFFERING SHALL BECOME UNKNOWN TO YOU...
...AS THE YEARS OF LOYALTY YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SHALL BE REWARDED!
YOU WILL NEVER HUNGER AGAIN, HELLBENDERS!!

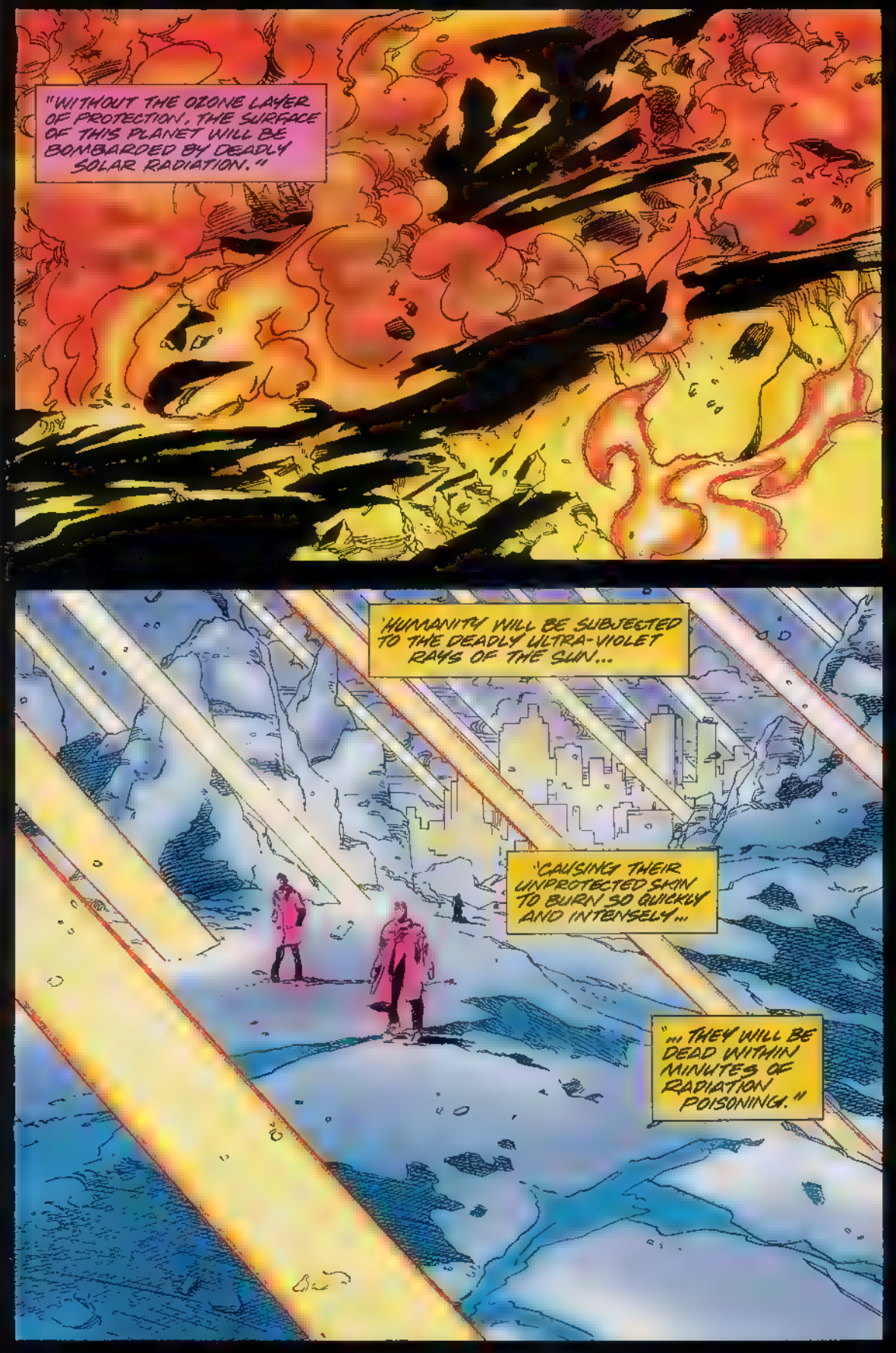
OUR DESTINY...
...WILL BE... ASSURED
UNH!
MASTER!
I AM... FINE.
IT WILL TAKE A MOMENT... TO RECHARGE... MY PERSONAL ENERGY.
BUT LOOK, CHILDREN...
THIS SPOT!
HERE IS WHERE A RADIATION HOT SPOT-- SO INTENSE IT WILL DRIVE ALL HUMANS AWAY -- WILL EXIST.
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW LIFE-GIVING RADIATION FROM THIS SPOT AT ANY TIME!
YOU WILL BE THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURES ON THE PLANET!
NOW, GO TO THE MISSILES AND PREPARE TO IGNITE THEM ON MY SIGNAL.
GO AND PREPARE FOR-DESTINY!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
BUT I DO BELIEVE IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE PIPER TO PAY ME.
IT STARTS AS A BUBBLING PATCH OF MOLTEN ROCK...

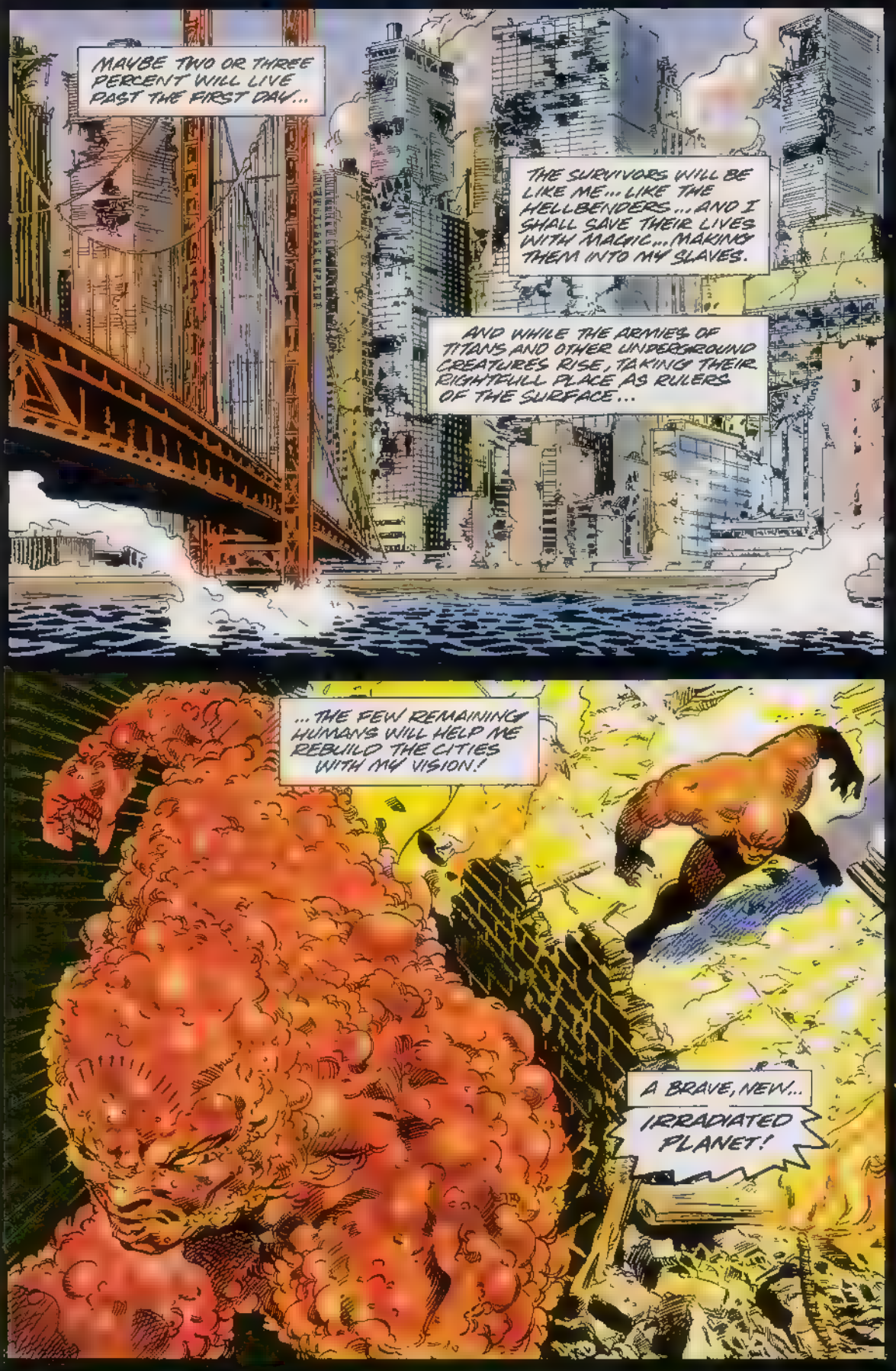

SUDDENLY EXPLODING UPWARD, SPRAYING MAGMA BROUGHT FROM THE HEART OF THE EARTH...
...WHERE NO HUMAN COULD SURVIVE...
...AND WHERE THE DEMONS DWELL!!
A MOMENT LATER, A HUGE BLACK FORM FOLLOWS THE CHANNEL MADE BY THE MOLTEN ROCK...
...SHOOTING INTO THE FRESH, SURFACE AIR THAT THIS "CREATURE" HAS NOT BREATHED FOR MANY YEARS...
...FOR TO HIM, BREATHING OXYGEN FEELS LIKE INHALING ACID FUMES.
DRAGONNN!
THE TRADE IS AT HAND, MUTANT!
I AM PREPARED TO CARRY OUT MY PART OF THE BARGAIN...
DO YOU HAVE YOUR MACHINES READY?

THERE ARE THE ACCELERATORS, DEMON-SPAWN.
TAKE THEM WHERE NO MAN CAN GO.
QUICKLY.
YOU PRESUME TOO MUCH, HUMAN!
I AM NOT A TURNKEY TO THE LAVA-REALMS!
I AM LITH KASTI-!
KING OF THE FIRE BATS!!
BUT-- I SHALL PLACE THE MACHINES AS YOU INSTRUCTED.
BUT FIRST...
GIVE ME MY HEART'S DESIRE.
THIS TOOK... CONSIDERABLE ENERGY, BEAST.
TAKE IT.
TAKE... HUMANITY.
YES! HUMANITY!
TO WALK ON THE SURFACE-- TO WALK AMONG MEN!

AT LAST..
--THE SURFACE WORLD IS MINE!
SO YOU TAKE THIS GIFT OF HUMANITY, LITH KASTI--
--EVEN THOUGHT ITS COST WILL BE THE DOOM OF THE HUMANS YOU ENVY SO.
ENVY?!
YOU PITIFUL, JEALOUS FOOL!
YOU HAD THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO APPEASE ME... TO BE GRANTED THE POWER I CAN BESTOW... FOR 200 YEARS, DARROW.
BUT THIS FOUL THING, THE DRAGON, HAS SUCCEEDED IN HIS ONE GENERATION!
AND SO... THE SURFACE WORLD IS FORFEIT!
NOT FORFEIT! FIRE EAT...
...FOREVER CHANGED.
MY CHILDREN, THE HELLBENDERS, THINK I GIVE THEM RADIATION...
...BUT THEY HAVE UNWILLINGLY GIVEN ME THE TOOLS TO IRRADIATE THE ENTIRE PLANET!


"WITH THESE MISSILES AND ACCELERATORS, I WILL CREATE A FUSION REACTION OF STAGGERING PROPORTIONS...
"...DWARFING ANY ERUPTION THIS PLANET HAS EVER WITNESSED.
"IT WILL HURL SUCH MASSIVE A MOUNTS OF CHLOURO FLOURO CARBONE INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
"...THAT IT WILL STRIP AWAY THE WHOLE OF THE EARTH'S OZONE LAYER!
"IN A MATTER OF HOURS, IT WILL DISAPPEAR LIKE GREEN PLASTIC WRAP SET ON FIRE!"


"WITHOUT THE OZONE LAYER OF PROTECTION, THE SURFACE OF THIS PLANET WILL BE BOMBARDED BY DEADLY SOLAR RADIATION."
"HUMANITY WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE DEADLY ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS OF THE SUN...
"CAUSING THEIR UNPROTECTED SKIN TO BURN SO QUICKLY AND INTENSELY...
"...THEY WILL BE DEAD WITHIN MINUTES OF RADIATION POISONING."


MAYBE TWO OR THREE PERCENT WILL LIVE PAST THE FIRST DAY...
THE SURVIVORS WILL BE LIKE ME... LIKE THE HELLBENDERS... AND I SHALL SAVE THEIR LIVES WITH MAGIC... MAKING THEM INTO MY SLAVES.
AND WHILE THE ARMIES OF TITANS AND OTHER UNDERGROUND CREATURES RISE, TAKING THEIR RIGHTFULL PLACE AS RULERS OF THE SURFACE...
...THE FEW REMAINING HUMANS WILL HELP ME REBUILD THE CITIES WITH MY VISION!
A BRAVE, NEW...
IRRADIATED PLANET!

AND I--
-I SHALL RULE THE WORLD--
-AS THE FIRST AND ONLY--
-DRAGON KING!!

Story **Neal Adams** Dialogue **Peter Stone** Art **Richard Bennett** Colors **Jeff Wells**

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SNAP IT

NO! I-I- BROKE TIME!

CALM YOURSELF MY BEAMISH BOY.

THAT'S NOT TIME, --IT'S MERELY A CLOCK, A RECORDER

GROW UP! TIME TO SEE WHAT YOU ARE TRULY MADE OF!

ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?

HUH? AFRAID OF YOU?

ANSWER ME!

AM I AFRAID?

I THINK YOU ARE AFRAID OF ME, AREN'T YOU?

HELL NO!!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!!

YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL SHOW YOU, MOHAWK!

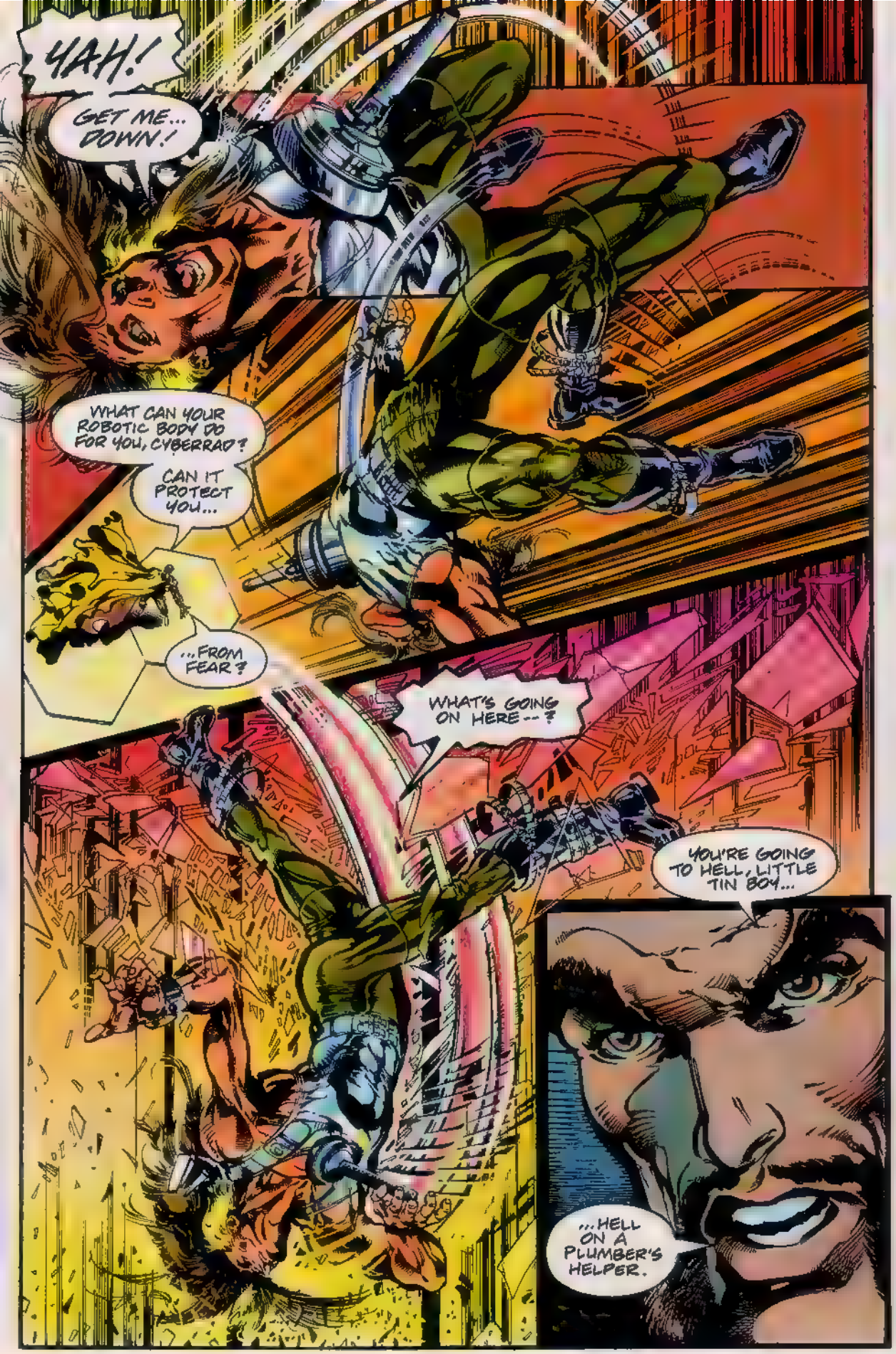
CHAK

SHIKSA

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW SCARED OF YOU I AM!!

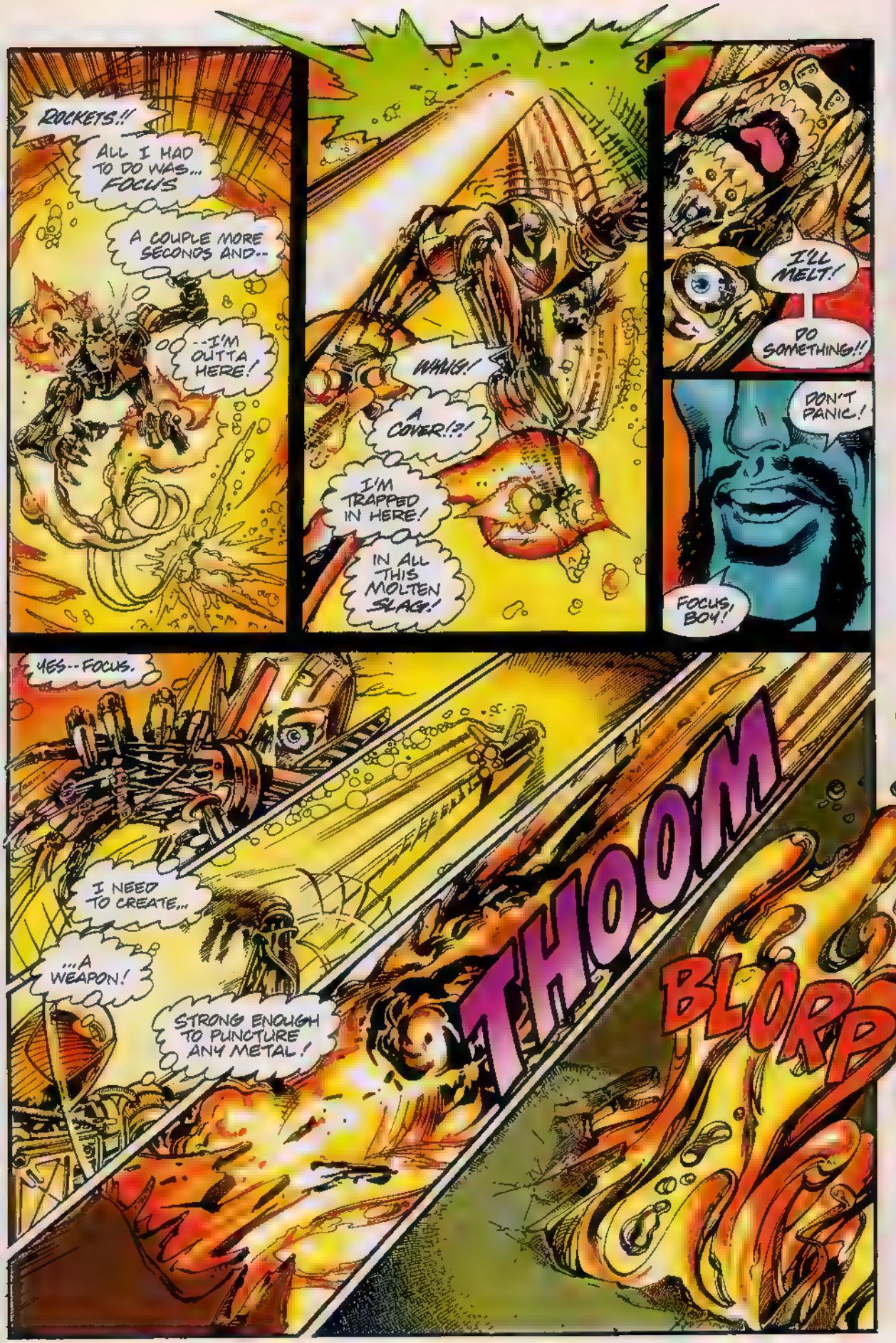
IT'S SINGE YOUR FEATHERS TIME, BOZO!

EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.
PITTY.
NOT WISE, MY BOY.
FORCES ME TO REPEAT MY QUESTION...
ARE YOU AFRAID? ARE YOU A COWARD?!
I TOLD YOU--
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU... OR...OR... ANYONE!
I'LL TAKE YOU OR ANYBODY ON!
WHO ARE YOU HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?!
A TEST!
A SMALL TEST. THINK OF ME AS YOUR TESTER!
I HAVE HERE... A PLUMBER'S HELPER. A VERY SPECIAL PLUMBER'S HELPER, TRY IT!
WHUARG!
PLUM...?
GET THIS THING... OFF A...
...MEEEEEE!

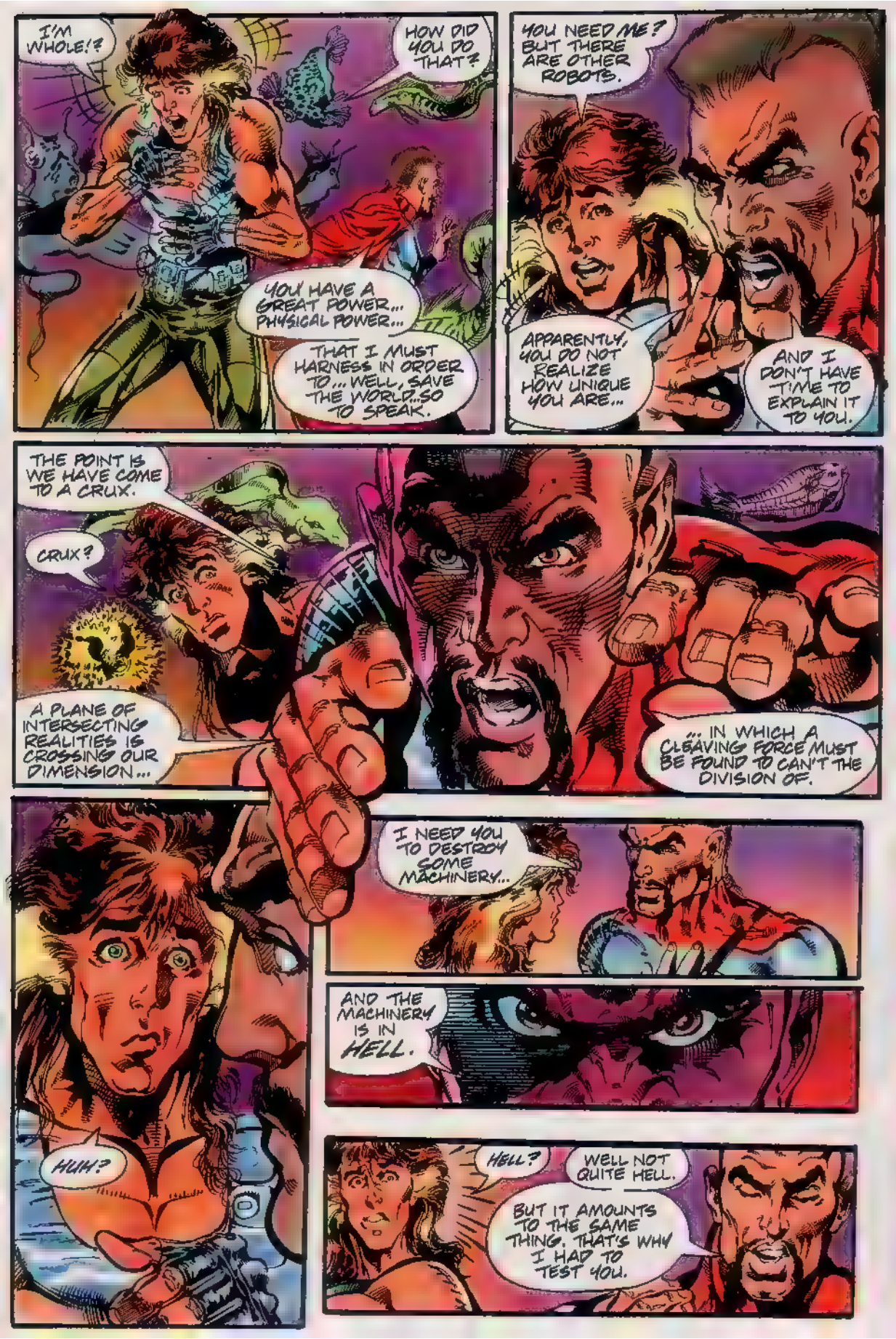

YAH!
GET ME... DOWN!
WHAT CAN YOUR ROBOTIC BODY DO FOR YOU, CYBERRAD?
CAN IT PROTECT YOU...
...FROM FEAR?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE--?
YOU'RE GOING TO HELL, LITTLE TIN BOY...
...HELL ON A PLUMBER'S HELPER.

WHAT'S--
--GOING--
--ON?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!
WHY?!
WHY!! WHY!
ARRRGG!
IT'S METAL!
BURNING LIQUID METAL!!
MOLTEN
HELP ME!
HOT!
C'MON, TIN BOY - YOU'RE FREAKING OUT.
I'M-- I'M MELTING- BURNING--
I'M BURNING UP!!
CONTROL YOURSELF!

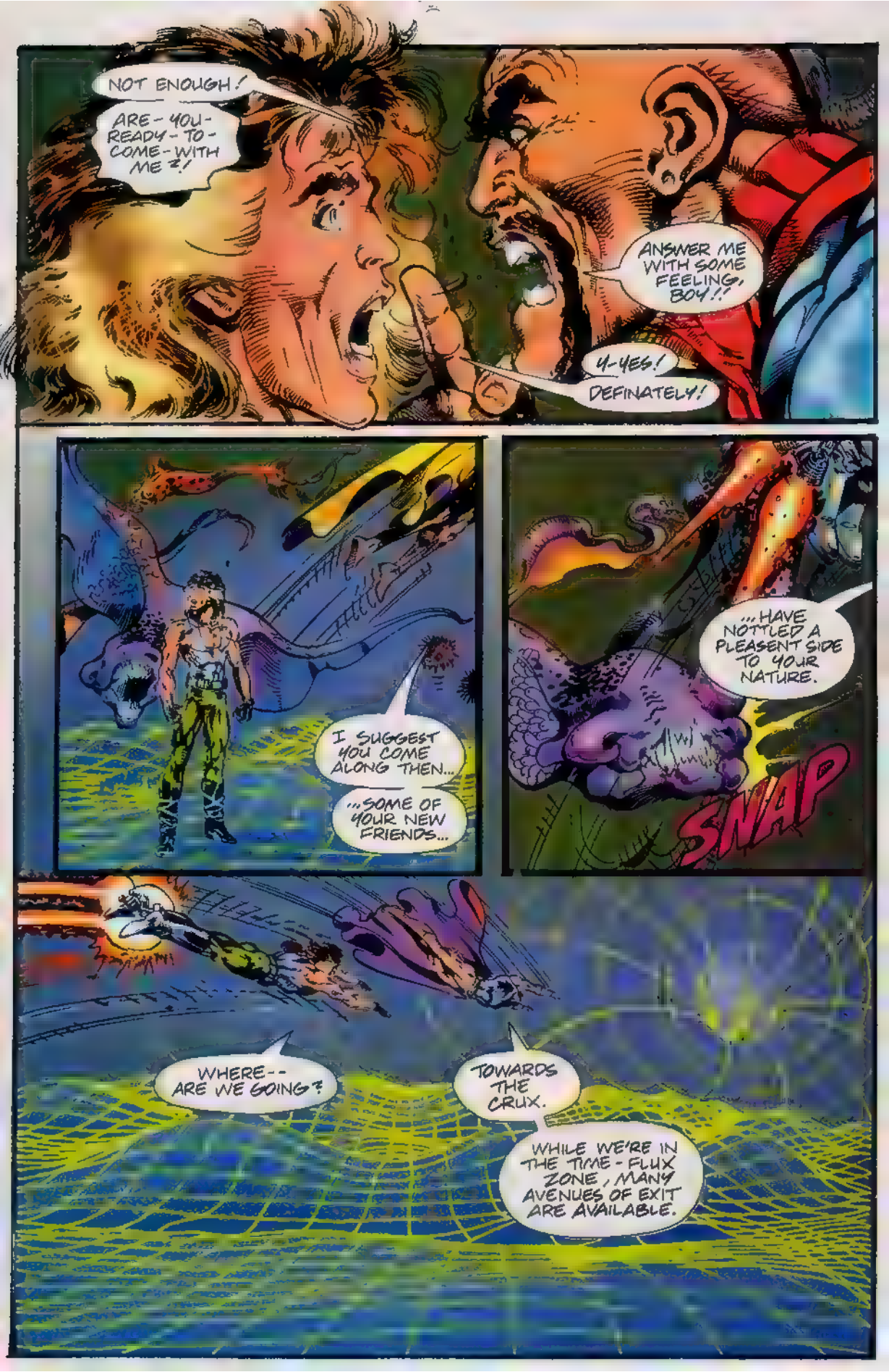
NOO NOOOOO
LOOK-
AT ME!
MY FLESH IS BURNING OFF!!
SO, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
DO... SOMETHING CYBERAD!
DO... DO WHAT?!
I'M-- BURNING
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF...
...HERE?!


ROCKETS!!
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS... FOCUS
A COUPLE MORE SECONDS AND--
--I'M OUTTA HERE!
WHAM!
A COVER!?!
I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!
IN ALL THIS MOLTEN SLAG!
I'LL MELT!
DO SOMETHING!!
DON'T PANIC!
FOCUS, BOY!
YES--FOCUS.
I NEED TO CREATE...
...A WEAPON!
STRONG ENOUGH TO PUNCTURE ANY METAL!
THOOM
BLORP

FREE
I DID IT!!
NO THANKS TO YOU-- MOHAWK!
WHAT'S THE DEAL, YOU...
PATHETIC.
HUH? ME?
YES!
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO YOURSELF--?
--IN YOUR PANIC!
YOU HAD THE POWER TO ESCAPE...
BUT YOU WERE TOO WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PRETTY FACE!
HAVE IT BACK IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT IT!


I'M WHOLE!?
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
YOU HAVE A GREAT POWER... PHYSICAL POWER...
THAT I MUST HARNESS IN ORDER TO... WELL, SAVE THE WORLD...SO TO SPEAK.
YOU NEED ME? BUT THERE ARE OTHER ROBOTS.
APPARENTLY, YOU DO NOT REALIZE HOW UNIQUE YOU ARE...
AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
THE POINT IS WE HAVE COME TO A CRUX.
CRUX?
A PLANE OF INTERSECTING REALITIES IS CROSSING OUR DIMENSION...
... IN WHICH A CLEAVING FORCE MUST BE FOUND TO CAN'T THE DIVISION OF.
I NEED YOU TO DESTROY SOME MACHINERY...
AND THE MACHINERY IS IN HELL.
HUH?
HELL?
WELL NOT QUITE HELL.
BUT IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO TEST YOU.

NOW, ONE MORE TIME--
ARE YOU AFRAID?!
UH...NO.
NO... I'M NOT AFRAID.
OH?
YOU WERE AFRAID... DOWN THERE!
WHA?
MY SKIN!
DOES SHOWING YOU REALITY REALLY SCARE YOU THAT MUCH?
UHH!
IT'S... BACK...
NO... I'M NOT AFRAID!
AND HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT ANY OF THIS MOHAWK?
THIS COULD ALL BE A SCAM!
FINE.
I CAN GO BY MYSELF.
UNLESS... YOU'RE READY TO HELP ME SAVE THE WORLD.
ARE YOU?
I...
I...
I GUESS SO.


NOT ENOUGH!
ARE-YOU-READY-TO-COME-WITH ME?!
ANSWER ME WITH SOME FEELING, BOY!!
U-YES!
DEFINATELY!
I SUGGEST YOU COME ALONG THEN...
...SOME OF YOUR NEW FRIENDS...
...HAVE NOTTLED A PLEASENT SIDE TO YOUR NATURE.
SNAP
WHERE--ARE WE GOING?
TOWARDS THE CRUX.
WHILE WE'RE IN THE TIME-FLUX ZONE, MANY AVENUES OF EXIT ARE AVAILABLE.

YOU GOT A NAME, MOHAWK?

OR IS THAT AS CONFUSING AS YOUR EXPLANATIONS?

I HAVE BEEN CALLED SHAMAN SINCE BEFORE THE FLOOD.

THAT SIMPLE ENOUGH?

BEFORE WHAT FLOOD?

NOT--THE FLOOD.

AS I SAID, YOU HAVE INCREDIBLE POWER...

...BUT I NEEDED TO HARNESS YOUR POWER.

BRING IT UNDER SOME KIND OF CONTROL.

YEAH...

BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO ALL THAT STUFF TO ME BEFORE?

THE...TEST, YOU SAID.

HEY!

CAN'T-

-YOU

-SIGNAL OR SOMETHIN'?!

JUST TRY TO KEEP UP, CYBER RAD.

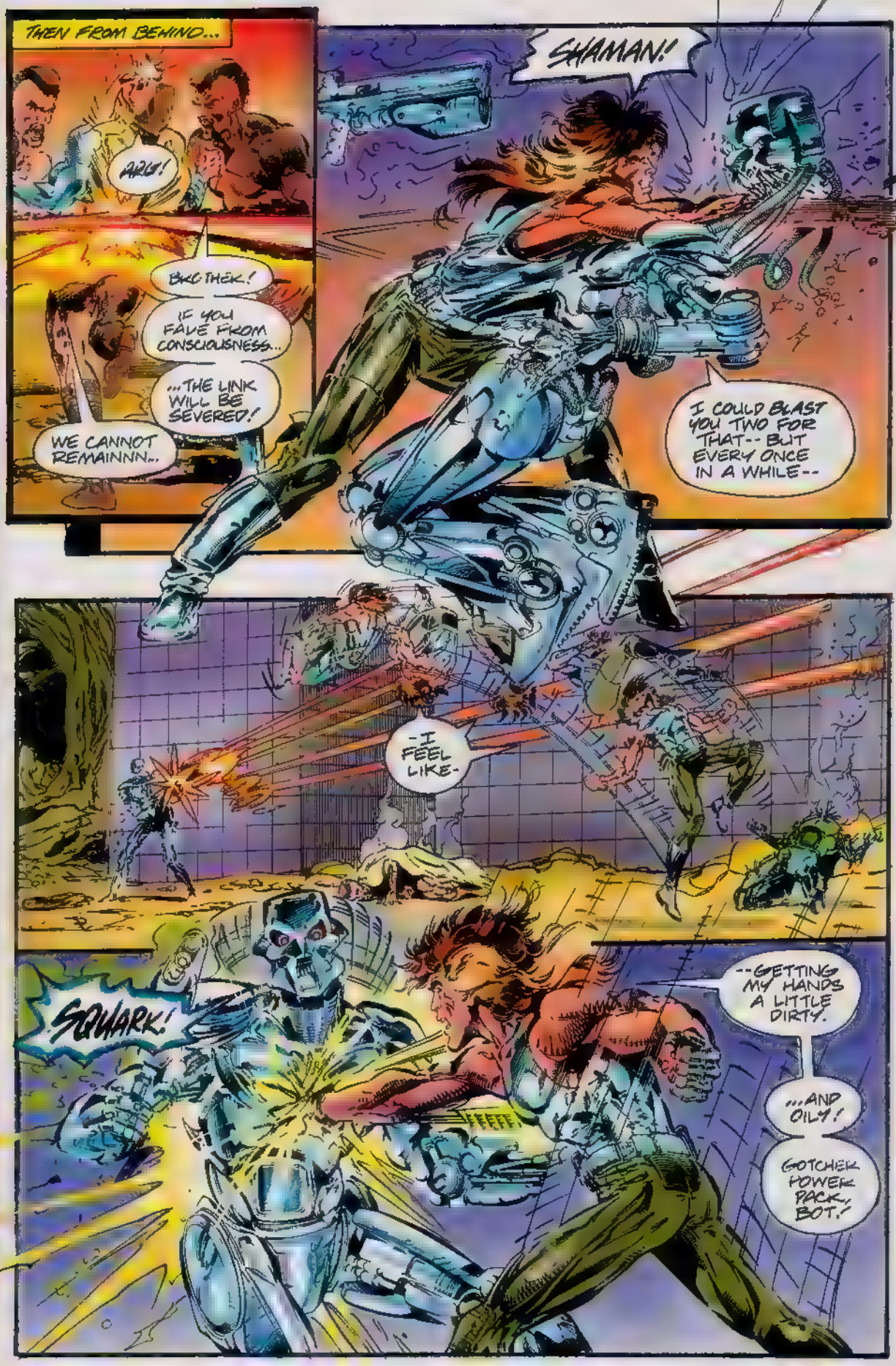
GETTING LOST HERE IS... UNCERTAIN.

HEY!
THE TUBE'S BREAKING UP... DISAPPEARING!
IT IS MERELY THE ENDING OF THIS ARTERY.
DID YOU THINK IT WOULD JUST STOP LIKE A TOILET PAPER ROLL?
UM... I...
SLOW YOURSELF DOWN, RADICAL.
WE HAVE ARRIVED.
HUH?
I-
-CAN'T-
-STOP!
UGH!
:SIGH:
RUSH
WHAT-
-IS YOUR PROBLEM, SHAMAN!?
IS EVERYTHING I DO A TEST FOR YOU TO WATCH?!
I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF IT!
AND WHAT DID I I SLAM INTO?
A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT DUMPSTER?!
WHAT IS ALL THIS JUNK?!

SECURITY BREACH!
INTRUDERS!
TAKE HIM, BOY. YOU'VE GOT WORK TO DO!
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD... THERE'S ONLY ONE.
THANKS, "PAL"!
UMPH!
ZOW ZOW ZOW
FRY ROBOT!
AWESOME! CREATING THESE WEAPONS FROM MY BODY GETS EASIER ALL THE TIME.
IT'S ALMOST SECOND NATURE!
SQUARK!
HA! YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' 'BOT!

NOW ANSWER MY QUESTION, SHAMAN. WHERE ARE WE?!
LOOK BEHIND YOU, BOY.
BEHIND...?
HUH?
THERE'S A MILLION... A BILLION OF THESE BOXES.!!
ALL THE WAY TO THE CEILING...?
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
WHO MADE ALL THESE BOXES OF WHATEVER?
AND WHAT'S INSIDE ALL OF THEM ANYWAY.?!
CHLOROFLOURO CARBONS.
GESUNDHEIT!
I MEAN... WHAT'S THAT?
ASK YOUR INTERNAL COMPUTER.
MY WHAT?
IN-YOUR HEAD!
USE THE COMPUTER IN YOUR HEAD TO ANSWER YOUR CHILDISH, UNINFORMED QUESTIONS!
MY... HEAD?

OH! I SEE...
IT'S LIKE A... LIBRARY.
FEEDING ME... INFORMATION...
NO...
CFCS... DESTROY OZONE LAYER...
LET ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT IN...
WHOA! THIS STUFF IS DANGEROUS!
WORSE THAN TOXIC WASTE.
HEY! SHAMAN! WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?
AND WHAT'S HE GONNA DO WITH THIS JUNK?
KILL 99% OF ALL SURFACE LIFE.
HUH? WAIT! IT'S ANOTHER ROBOT!
LET ME--
I CAN PROTECT MYSELF.
SHAMAN BROTHERS-- TO MY AID!!
WE-
-ARE-
-HERE, BROTHER!
ADD YOUR STRENGTH TO MINE...
...TO REDIRECT THIS POWER--


THEN FROM BEHIND...
ARG!
BKC THEK.!
IF YOU FAVE FROM CONSCIOUSNESS...
...THE LINK WILL BE SEVERED!
WE CANNOT REMAINNN...
SHAMAN!
I COULD BLAST YOU TWO FOR THAT-- BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE--
-I FEEL LIKE-
SQUARK!
--GETTING MY HANDS A LITTLE DIRTY.
...AND OILY!
GOTCHER POWER PACK, BOT.!

I... HAVE AUXILIARY POWER PACKS...
YOU CANNOT... DISABLE ME... SO EASILY...
I HEAR YA TALKIN'... BUT I DON'T SEE NO WALKIN' TIN-BOY!
ODD. MY DIAGNOSTIC SCAN...
...INDICATES FULL CAPACITY...
...BUT...
...WHY IS THE CEILING SUDDENLY IN FRONT OF ME?
EXCELLENT! IT GETS EASIER EVERY TIME!
NOW I CAN FORM MY FLESH AGAIN WITH BARELY A THOUGHT.
HEY, MOHAWK! YOU DEAD?. OR JUST LETTIN' ME DO ALL THE HARD WORK?!
AM I ON MY OWN FROM HERE ON IN?
HUSH, BOY!
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M FINE!
WELL, NOW WHAT? SHOULDN'T WE GET MOVING? I MEAN...
...I'M NOT REALLY DOING ANYTHING.
JUST BUSTIN' UP THESE 'BOTS.
ACKKK
BRAT
YOU DIDN'T GET BLASTED IN THE BACK.
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, BOY. IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE TRIP, SIMON.
STAND STILL... YOU MUST BE WITHIN THE SHAMAN'S EYE.
EYE.?
HEY. THERE'S AN EYEBALL IN YOUR BELT.!

HUH?
LIGHT... AM I... DYING...?
NOT YET, MEGALITH. BUT IT APPEARS WE'VE ARRIVED IN THE NICK OF TIME.
SHAMAN? AND...?
SIMON PEAKE. BUT MOST CALL HIM--CYBERAD.
WHAT'S... GOIN' ON?
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
REMEMBER THAT CRUX I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT?
THIS IS IT.
YOU HAVE TAKEN MY ADVISE, JOSEF... AND NOW YOU MUST LISTEN AGAIN...
YOUR ROLE IS NOT TO DIE FIGHTING ROBOTS.
YOUR FATE LIES TO THE EAST. INTO THE FUMAROLES.
HEED MY WORDS, MEGALITH.
CYBERRAD- YOU MUST DESTROY THOSE TIN MACHINES.
NOT A PROBLEM, MOHAWK!
SHAK
KLACK
WHIRRRR

I DON'T LIKE RUNNING FROM A FIGHT...
GO QUICKLY!
AWESOME! I'M REALLY STARTIN' TO GET INTO THIS STUFF.
MAN - I CAN MAKE ANYTHING!!
YES YES... I'M VERY IMPRESSED.
BUT IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS, KID.
HEY, HEY! YER RUNNIN' INTO A DEAD END, SHAMAN!
EYES OPEN!
RELAX RADICAL...
THERE IS A RIFT IN THIS CREVISE.

INCREDIBLE!
I THOUGHT THAT LAST CAVERN WAS IMPRESSIVE... BUT THIS IS... BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE EVER IMAGINED!
DOES THIS GO ALL THE WAY TO THE EARTH'S CORE?
HARDLY. THIS IS MERELY A SMALL CIRCUIT NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE CORE.
THERE ARE MANY WONDERS THAT YOU WILL NOT SEE ON THIS JOURNEY.
WOW! HOW DO YOU STAND THE HEAT, SHAMAN?
IT'S PRETTY INTENSE.
I CAN'T... NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.
SOON... YOU WILL BE ON YOUR OWN. FIRST THOUGH... YOU MUST SEE-
-THIS
THE ENEMY! BETRAYER OF THE EARTH!
LOOK WELL!!
WOOOO-EEE!
DEAR DEATHWATCHER- TO DISCOVER THE VILLAIN WITHIN THE EYE AND LEARN HIS NAME, PEEL THE STICKER FROM THE FRONT OF THE THIS COMIC BOOK AND PLACE IT AT THE CENTER OF THIS EYEBALL. IF YOU PLACE IT CORRECTLY, YOU SHOULD BE able TO READ HIS NAME. KRIS
THAT IS ONE PUG-UGLY FREAK!
KABAM!

Plot **Neal Adams** Story **Peter Stone** Pencils **Brian Apthorp** Inks **Alberto Saichan & Nelson Luty**
Color **Paul Mounts** Letters **Gail Becket** Cover **Michael Golden & Cory**

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TELL ME!
—OR I'LL CARVE OUT YOUR TONGUE!
HOW SAD...
THAT ONE OF MY GREATEST OPPONENTS IS JUST A CHILD...
...UNABLE TO UNLOCK THE SIMPLEST OF RIDDLES!
WHUG!
HAHAHAHAHA
HA-HA-HA
HA HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
I AM THE DRAGON— AND SOON I WILL BE THE RULER OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET!
FALLING... INTO CHASM... GOTTA REACH A ROCK...
...BEFORE...
...IT STOPS RINGING!

:COUGH:
SNORT...
HELLO?
JACK!
WAKE UP FAST! IT'S ME...JOE!
PEARL JAM
JOE...MEGALITH?
WAIT A MINUTE, BIG GUY...
I'LL PUT YOU ON THE WALL SCREEN.
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY BIG GOIN' ON— AND THE DRAGON IS INVOLVED.
THERE YA GO. WAIT...
THE DRAGON?!
I WAS JUST DREAMING ABOUT HIM.
I'M IN WASHINGTON ...THE STATE... SOMEWHERE NEAR MOUNT ST. HELENS.
...THE VOLCANO!
SOMEONE'S FILLED IT WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS, CHLOROFLOURO-CARBONS...
...STUFF THAT WILL COMPLETELY DESTROY THE OZONE LAYER.
WAIT A MINUTE! THE VOLCANO!
IT JUST HIT ME!
THE DRAGON'S GONNA BLOW UP THE VOLCANO! AND DESTROY THE OZONE!
JACK— SORRY, GOTTA GO!
JOE GOT CUT OFF. BUT...?
BLOWING UP A VOLCANO? WHAT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO THAT?
BOMBS? NO...
MISSILES? NO...
UNLESS MAYBE THEY WERE NUCLEAR!

AND NUCLEAR MISSILES ARE KEPT ON — AIRCRAFT CARRIERS!!
THE DRAGON STOLE MISSILES TO SET OFF THE VOLCANO!
JACQUES! WAKE UP!
THE CARRIER TAKEOVER WAS ALL A TRICK— TO HIDE THE THEFT!
HUH? I DON'T WANNA WATCH THE MADONNA VIDEO AGAIN...
IT'S NOT THAT! I FIGURED IT ALL OUT!
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
PEARL JAM
AND!
WE GOTTA SAVE MEG'S BUTT!
I'LL GET JACKIE!
HUH?
BLADES—?!
FAST... CATCH 'EM!

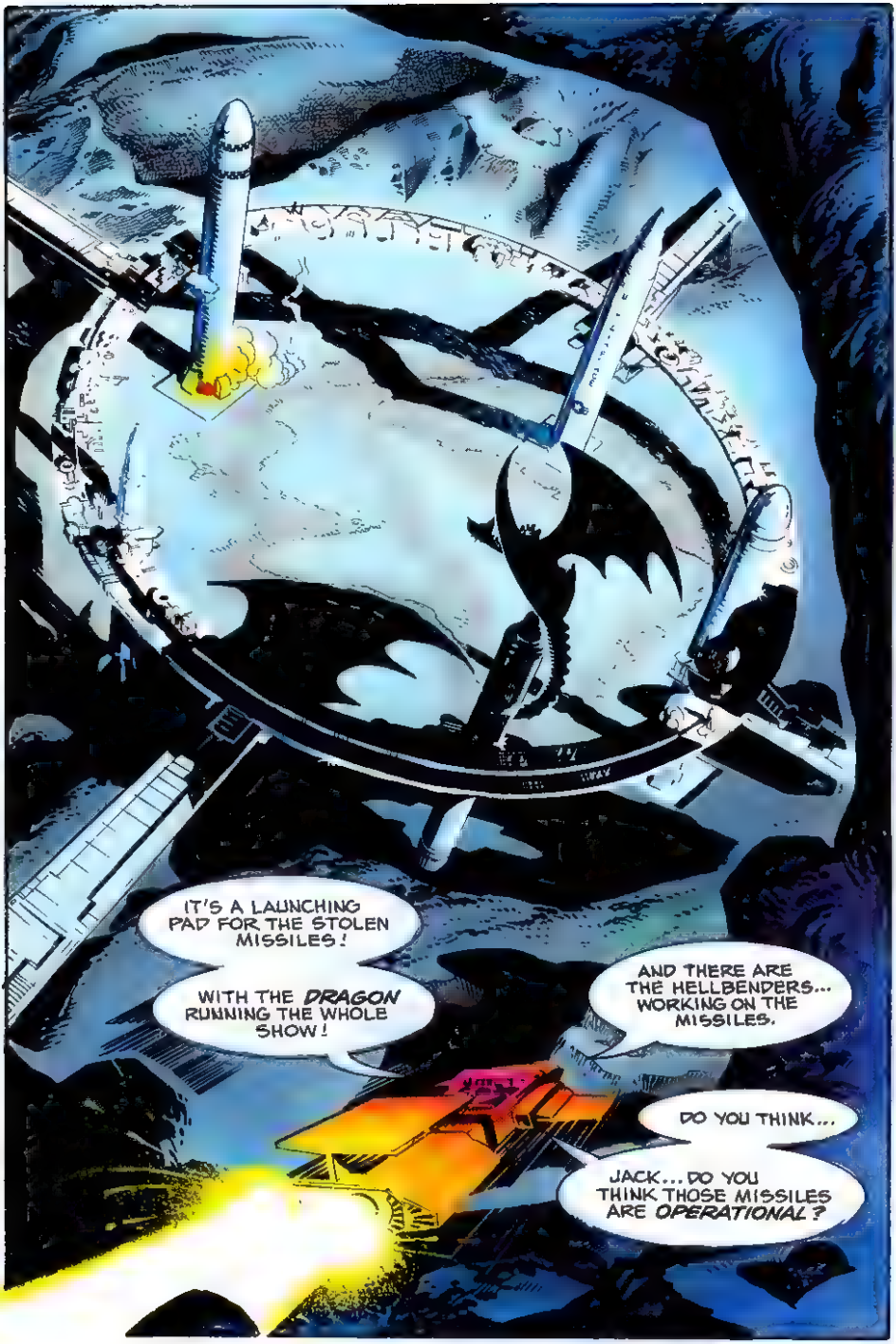
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YER DOIN', YA CRAZY BROAD!?!
PROTECTING MYSELF.
I WAS TRAINED TO EXPECT ATTACTS AT ANY MOMENT.
EVEN IN MY SLEEP.
DON'T CHA LOOK BEFORE CHUCKIN' THOSE THINGS?
HESITATION BRINGS DEATH.
PEARL JAM
YEAH, RIGHT.
TAK-TAK-TAK
GET DRESSED, SIS...
I THINK I FOUND THE DRAGON.
AN HOUR LATER, OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.
ALL RIGHT, JACK. WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO MOUNT ST. HELENS. HOW ARE WE GONNA FIND MEGALITH?
WE LOOK FOR THE EXPLOSIONS AND WRECKAGE.
GIVE MEG'S PAL CARSON A CALL AND SEE WHAT HE'S GOT.

CAPTAIN CARSON—SILVER STREAK HERE. DID YOU CHECK OUT MY SUSPICIONS?
ROGER THAT, KID! FIVE MISSILES WERE TAKEN FROM THE THUNDERBOLT. BUT THEY WERE NOT ARMED!
THEY HAVE NO GUIDANCE SYSTEMS... NO TRIGGERS... THEY ARE JUST POWERFUL ROCKETS.
THAT DOESN'T... WAIT, CHECK YOUR FILES FOR STOLEN PAYLOADS AND TRIGGERING DEVICES FROM OTHER PLACES.
I'LL HAVE TO RUN A NATION-WIDE SCAN... GO BACK THREE WEEKS...
BINGO! MISSILE TRIGGERS FROM A PLANT IN MARYLAND...
...NUCLEAR PAYLOADS FROM TEXAS.
THIS... IS VERY BAD!
WHOEVER THIS DRAGON PERSON IS, KIDS...
...HE IS ONE SMART COOKIE.
HE SPREAD OUT THE THEFTS...
SO NO ONE PUT IT ALL TOGETHER.
I HATE TO CALL YOU WRONG, CARSON...
BUT SOMEONE DID PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER!
LOOK!

STREAK!
BLAST THAT THING BEFORE IT—
WH...WH...WH... WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M... STILL... ALIVE.
ALIVE!

NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION...
... ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I AM GYMCRACK— BLUE MAGE FROM THE PLANET BRINWORL
I AM HERE TO OBSERVE DEATH WATCH 2000—
—YOU MUST COME WITH ME.
TAKE A HIKE, ELEVATOR-BOY!!
YOU GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK WITH THAT STUNT!
THE LAST GUY WHO SCARED ME LIKE THAT IS STILL IN TRACTION!
PETTY THREATS, EARTHER?
THE FUTURE OF YOUR PLANET IS IN YOUR HANDS.
THIS IS THE MOMENT OF YOUR LIVES—
ARMOR! JACK!
—CHOOSE CAREFULLY, FOR THE DRAGON WILL ALLOW NO SECOND CHANCES.
OH, YEAH?
WELL, I CHOOSE TO SLICE AND DICE YOU!
I'M A MAGIC PROJECTION, YOU PRIMITIVE!
YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME!!
WHOOOS?

I GOTCHA, JACK!!
I CAN SNAG HIM WITH MAGNETIC ENERGY... DRAG HIM BACK TO THE SHIP.
HUNH!
IF YOU ARE QUITE THROUGH YOUR HISTRIONICS...
...OVER THAT GEOGRAPHIC FORMATION LIES THE DRAGON'S PENULTIMATE PLAN.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
STOP IT. BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE.
IF YOU FAIL... THIS PLANET IS DOOMED.
DOOMED
I'M GETTING OUT OF RANGE... HAVE TO FADE.
HURRY.
WHOA!
ARMOR, YOU'D BETTER FILL US IN ON ALL THIS... BETTER ...NOW... THIS IS LOOKING... BIG.


IT'S A LAUNCHING PAD FOR THE STOLEN MISSILES!
WITH THE *DRAGON* RUNNING THE WHOLE SHOW!
AND THERE ARE THE HELLBENDERS... WORKING ON THE MISSILES.
DO YOU THINK...
JACK... DO YOU THINK THOSE MISSILES ARE *OPERATIONAL*?

JUST GOT THE LAST POWER LINK IN PLACE, HELLFIRE.
THEN, I'LL RUN A FULL DIAGNOSTIC.
MY HEART RACES WITH ANTICIPATION FELLOW HELLBENDERS. OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD'S NIGH.
REM... CHECK THE CIRCUITS ON #4. I'M STILL GETTING TOO MUCH FEEDBACK.
JACK...?
YOU'RE ACCELERATING, JACK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?!
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT LIZARD OUT—
—THE ONLY WAY I CAN!!
WITH THE BIGGEST THING AROUND!
YOU GUYS BETTER BRACE YOURSELVES.
BLEEPBLEEPBLEEP
A... SHIP?
DRAGON!
LOOK OUT!

EH?
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, REM...?
YEEEAARRG!
KRAK
MMMMMMY CHEST!
THE DRAGON... IS HURT!

HANG ON, JACK!
I'LL CATCH YOU IN A SECOND...!
NO WAY, BRO!
WE CAN'T BUNCH UP! ONE SHOT COULD TAKE US ALL OUT!
I CAN SAVE MYSELF!
...AND WITH A WIRE CABLE...
...THIS SEEMS LIKE AN EXCELLENT TIME TO TRY IT OUT!
I MADE A SPECIAL ARROW FOR THIS TYPE...
...OF EMERGENCY.
CAREFUL SHOT...
AND...
YES!
THE KID'S STILL GOT IT!!
WAA—
—HOOO!

WHOA! MOVIN' TOO FAST!
I MIGHT OVERSHOOT THE RING!
UMPH!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
BUT, HEY...
I'M THE BEST!
I KNEW I'D NAIL IT!
RRRRRIGHT!
THAT PUNY LITTLE HUMAN...
HURT ME!!
HELLBENDERS!
KILL THEM!
MAKE ALL OF THEM DIE SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY!
BUT SAVE ARMOR FOR ME!
I WILL FEAST ON HIS SOUL!!

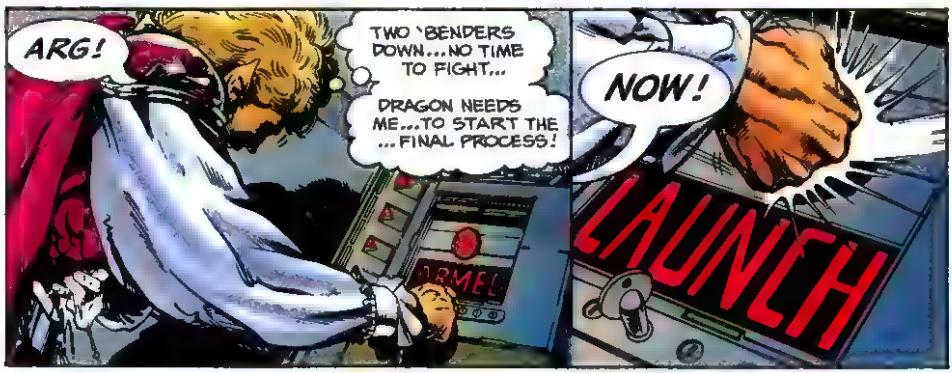
SHOULD WE HELP THEM, LEPER?
NOT UNLESS THEY REALLY NEED US, VOID. WE'RE ALMOST DONE HERE.
YESSSS. I'VE BEEN BURNING FOR A REMATCH!
PICK YOUR TARGETS, BENDERS... BUT REMEMBER THESE HUMANS ARE DANGEROUS!
OHHH. IT'S THAT CUTE SILVER STREAK!
HE'S MINE!
COME AND GET ME, METAL BOY!
MY PLEASURE!
I SINCERELY DOUBT THAT.
HURK!
ENERGY BANDS... :GASP: ...CHOKING ME ...BUT HOLDING ME UP...
MY OWN WEIGHT...IS GONNA HANG ME!!

YOU MISSED ME, DIDN'T YOU, SWEETIE?
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES!
MY EYES?
MY... EYES!
THEY'RE INVADING MY BRAIN!
I CAN'T SEE!
POOR BABY...
LET ME KISS IT AND MAKE IT ALL BETTER!
OH, NO...
EEE YUCH!
DON'T— TOUCH— MEEEEEEE!

SO...YOU'RE ARMOR'S SWEET SISTER?
I'M GONNA MELT THAT MASK TO YOUR FACE!
YOU TALK LIKE A FOOL, HELLFIRE!
KRAK
MY LEGGGG!
YOUR WEAKEST JOINT!
AND FIGHT LIKE A SUPER-POWERED CHILD!
NO DEFENSE.
...YOUR CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM IS NEXT!
ALMOST UNCONSCIOUS, ARMOR?
NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH. WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU'LL BE IN MY MASTER'S BELLY! HAHAH
HA-HUNH?!

NICE... TRY... ARMOR...
GASP
BUT YOU'LL CHOKE FIRST!
YEAH?!
ONLY... GASP... ONE WAY... TO FIND...
OUT!
EAT DEFECATED WASTE WITH MAGGOTS, YOU SCUM-SUCKER.
SNIK
SNIK
YARRGH!
I BROKE HIS CONCENTRATION... HIS MAGIC FADED!
GOOD. I CUT HIM, I THINK. BLADES FELT WRONG, THOUGH.
ALL OF THESE HELLBENDERS ARE SO BLOODY TOUGH!..
JACQUES?
JACQUES?!
WHAT'S THAT WITCH DOIN' TO YOU?

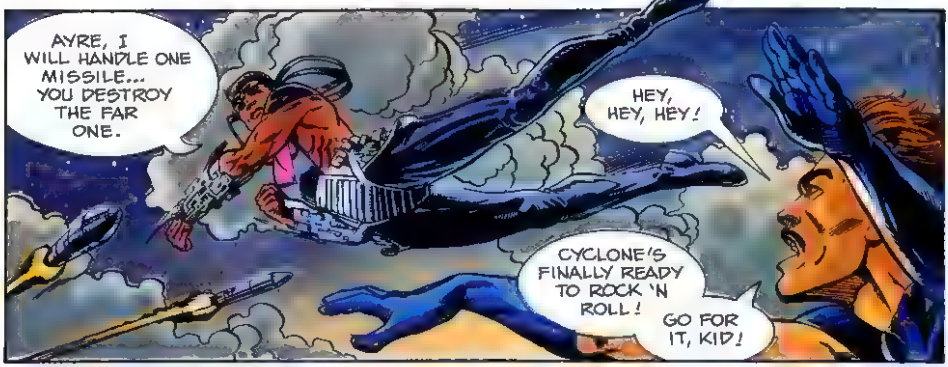
JACK...?
I CAN HEAR JACK!!
IT'S NOT REAL...NONE OF IT'S REAL!
IT'S REM! SHE'S DOIN' IT.
I GOTTA EXIT MY POWER!
JAAAACK!

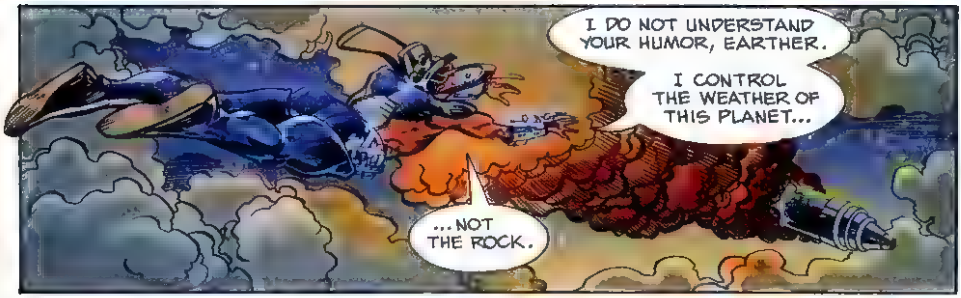

ARG!
TWO 'BENDERS DOWN...NO TIME TO FIGHT...
DRAGON NEEDS ME...TO START THE ...FINAL PROCESS!
NOW!
LAUNCH

THE MISSILES! HE LAUNCHED THE MISSILES!
THEY'RE IN A CYCLE ...THIS ONE FIRST, THEN THE NEXT...
WE... LOST!
NO!!
WE CAN STILL STOP YOU! YOU'RE NOT GONNA WIN!
I CAN... JUMP ONTO ONE...
...AND HACK THOUGH THE FUEL LINES!
THIS BABY AIN'T GONNA GO FAR!
COUGH
ROCKET FUEL...
...NOXIOUS! CAN'T... BREATHE ...FUMES!
NEED A LIGHT, ARMOR?!
HAHAHA HAHAHA!!
STREAK... HELP ME...
I'M BURNING!
JACQUES...

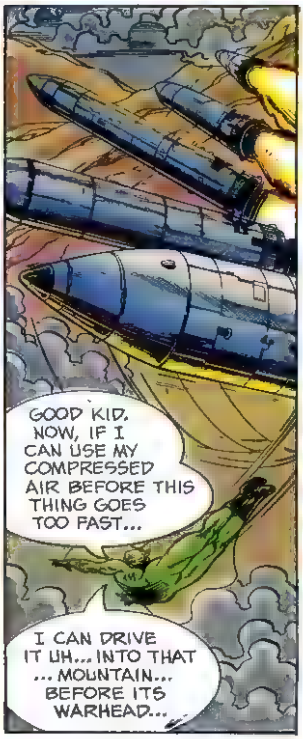
UNHHHH!
FIRE STOPPED...!
EVEN THE HEAT IS GOING AWAY.
THANKS, JACQUES. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT.
YOU'RE WELCOME. BUT WHO'S JACQUES?
WHOA!
UH...MY BROTHER.
THE...UH... SILVER DUDE OVER THERE.
BUT WHO ARE... YOU?
KELLY KANE.
A HUMAN BONDED WITH AN ELEMENTAL. YOU CAN CALL ME FYRE!
FYRE...STOP THOSE MISSILES!
OF COURSE... I CAN GET THAT REARWARD MISSILE...
WITH A THERMAL OVERLOAD.
OTHERS WILL HAVE TO STOP THE REMAINING MISSILES.

FOUL DRAGON!
IF THAT MISSILE IS... DETONATED, THE EARTH SHALL SUFFER AS ONLY TWICE BEFORE!
MY BODY SHALL BURN... MY SKIN SHALL BECOME LIKE ACID...
I MAY... DIE.
AND MY PLANET SHALL PERISH AS WELL!
THIS SHALL NOT COME TO PASS!!
THE URTH WILL NOT ALLOW IT!!
THREE MORE FINGERS OF DEATH RISE INTO THE SKY.


AYRE, I WILL HANDLE ONE MISSILE... YOU DESTROY THE FAR ONE.
HEY, HEY, HEY!
CYCLONE'S FINALLY READY TO ROCK 'N ROLL!
GO FOR IT, KID!


I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR HUMOR, EARTHER.
I CONTROL THE WEATHER OF THIS PLANET...
...NOT THE ROCK.

LIGHTNING STRIKES THE CENTER OF THE MISSILE, SHATTERING IT IN TWO...
...BUT CAREFULLY MAKING SURE ITS DEADLY PAYLOAD REMAINS SECURE.


GOOD KID. NOW, IF I CAN USE MY COMPRESSED AIR BEFORE THIS THING GOES TOO FAST...
I CAN DRIVE IT UH... INTO THAT ... MOUNTAIN... BEFORE ITS WARHEAD...

...ACTIVATES
...AND THE MISSILE MEETS THE MOUNTAIN.

WE DID IT.
WE STOPPED THE MISSILES!
WRONG!!
WE ONLY DESTROYED FOUR! WHERE'S THE FIFTH MISSILE?!
WHERE?!
ARE YOU MISSING...
...SOMETHING, "HEROES"?
REM!
YOU TRICKED US!!
THAT'S RIGHT! I MADE THE FIFTH MISSILE DISAPPEAR...
...SO NONE OF YOU COULD SEE IT!
EXCELLENT, REM!
TOGETHER, WE BEAT THE HUMAN SCUM!
I WIN, YOU IDIOTS!
I WIN!

SHEALTH...

MEGALITH... HEADS UP... HERE SHE COMES!

HUH??

WHO?! WHERE? WHAT?

Plot Neal Adams Story Peter Stone Pencils Ernesto Infante Inks Alberto Saichan
Color: Cory Letters: Gail Beckett Cover Art Ernesto Infante & Kevin Nowlan
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DEATHMATCH 4000

REACHES...

THE FINAL GATHERING!

SHEALTH!

WHAT ?? GOOD QUESTION.

IT'S LAUNCHED!

IN THE CAVERNOUS DEPTHS BENEATH THE MOUNT SAINT HELEN'S CRATER...

...18 YEAR OLD JOSEF MAJURAC, A.K.A. MEGALITH, AND HIS TWO HYBRID ALLIES, SHEALTH AND MITE...

...HAVE DISCOVERED A MASSIVE STOCKPILE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS.

CHEMICALS CALLED CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS ...WHICH, IF UNLEASHED, INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, WOULD QUICKLY DESTROY THE EARTH'S PRECIOUS OZONE LAYER.

ONLY A MASSIVE ERUPTION COULD RELEASE THE CFCS...

THEY DIDN'T STOP THE LAUNCH!

WE CAN'T STOP IT ANY MORE!

THE ENTIRE WORLD IS GONNA GO STRAIGHT TO HELL ... NOW!

SHEALTH! TUNE IN!
HUH? MITE?
MITE...
YOW!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
TUNE IN! TUNE IN! SHEALTH!
THE OTHERS FAILED!!
OKAY! OKAY! I'M "LIST'NIN'"!
GUYS... WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN'... SHEALTH? MITE?
IT SOUNDED SERIOUS...
ANYBODY HOME?
THE MISSILE!
THE THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD!
WHAT'S ITS DESTINATION?
MOUNT SAINT HELENS.
DRAGON ONLY NEEDED TO GET *ONE* AWAY...
ONE OF SIX SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED.
WE FAILED!
FULLY ARMED...
TOO LATE!
ZONED OUT COMPLETELY... AGAIN.
TOO FAST. CAN'T CATCH IT!
WHERE'S IT GOING?
REM TRICKED US...
WE FAILED...
WHERE'S GROUND ZERO?!

THE MOUNTAIN! WHERE MITE AND SHEALTH ARE!...

BAD.

DETONATION—

—CAUSE AN ERUPTION?

MOUNT SAINT HELENS!

WHY SHOULD IT?

ASH AND SOOT WILL BLANKET THE AREA...

...CUTTING OFF THE SUN!

NUCLEAR FALLOUT!

THAT MUST BE THE PLAN! THE DRAGON'S FINAL PLAN!

I WONDER...

MOVE!!

GET OUTSIDE! FAST!

WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON?

MITE WAS TALKING MISSILES. COULD IT BE THOSE MISSILES FROM THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER?

A NUCLEAR MISSILE!

WE'RE FLAMIN' GROUND ZERO!

DOESN'T TRACK THOSE STOLEN WARHEADS. THEY'RE LOW-YIELD. IS SOMEONE TRYING TO TOUCH OFF THE VOLCANO?

WHY THIS PARTICULAR VOLCANO? WHY NOT THAT SEMI-ACTIVE ONE IN THE PHILLIPINES?

GO!

GO!

GO!

GO!

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS VOLCA...?

THE — BOXES!

FILLED WITH CFCs!

THEY'RE GONNA USE THE ERUPTION TO SHOOT THE CFC'S INTO THE ATMOSPHERE!

LOOK OUT, TITANS!

TITANS

TIT

NOWHERE LEFT TO HIDE, HUMANS!

YOU'VE RULED THE SURFACE WORLD FOR CENTURIES...

...BUT TODAY YOUR REIGN ENDS, AND THE DAY OF THE TITANS BEGINS!!

AYIERR!

SUCK BLOOD, BILE-BUG!

ARRG!

YOU AIN'T GONNA BE AROUND TO ENJOY IT!

NOTHING TO ENJOY ANYWAY... 'CAUSE YOU SLUGS AREN'T WINNING!

SHEALTH—THE GRAVITY DANCER OF TROMBROOR—ALTERS THE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD AROUND ANOTHER TITAN, SENDING HIM FLYING UPWARD INTO A SPIKED STALACTITE.

THE HYBRIDS DON'T REALIZE... THIS ISN'T ABOUT *OUR* PERSONAL SAFETY!

IT'S ABOUT THE ENTIRE WORLD! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS!

UGH!

TIME!

HOW MUCH TIME?!

UH...THREE MINUTES TO IMPACT.

WE'RE NOT LEAVING YET!

WHY NOT?

THE OTHERS ARE TRYING TO STOP THE MISSILE...

BECAUSE, IF THEY DON'T STOP THE MISSILE, THE DETONATION WILL SEND AN INFERNO OF CFCs INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE...

THOSE TITANS GUARD ENOUGH JUNK TO...

ENSURE EARTH'S ENTIRE OZONE LAYER IS DESTROYED!

MM. YES, FATHER. OUT.

ALL RIGHT! MOVE OUT!

HEAD FOR THE BUNKER...

YOU GO NOWHERE, SLUG!

YOU'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE...

...WITH ME!

AND *IF* THAT MISSILE HITS...

...COMPARED TO WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO YOU!

IT'LL SEEM LIKE *NOTHING*...

NOW YER GETTIN' IT, MEG!

LIKE I LEARNED WHEN I WAS FIVE CYCLES...

...WHEN YOU FIGHT...

...YOU FIGHT TO *KILL!!*

TWO MINUTES...

I HOPE I'M RIGHT...

ABOUT THE GEOLOGY OF THIS CAVERN...

EXCELLENT!

THE TITANS LOADED ALL THE BOXES CLOSE TO THE SURFACE OF THE CRATER...

BAH! I'M THE BEST GRAVITY SHIFTER IN THE UNIVERSE!

WATCH IT, MEG!

OVER ANOTHER, LARGER CAVERN.

BUT THE STRUCTURAL STRENGTH OF THE FLOOR ...IT'S *MORE* THAN THE 'PUTER SAYS I CAN *HANDLE.*

SHEALTH'S ABOUT TO UNLOAD!

THERE. THE CENTER POINT...

NO MORE *TIME*, SHEALTH...

FOCUS...

THE WHOLE PLANET'S COUNTING ON ME...

DO IT!

I...UGH... DIDN'T KNOW SHEALTH WAS THAT *STRONG!*

ME, EITHER!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS A WUSS-BOY!

THE CAVERN FLOOR SHUDDERS AND HEAVES...

...AS THOUGH GASPING FOR A LAST BREATH...

...AND THEN IS SHATTERED INTO MULTI-TON FRAGMENTS, CARRYING WITH IT THE COUNTLESS EBONY CUBES.

*CUBES—NAY, **COFFINS** THAT HOLD WITHIN THEIR BLACKNESS THE **DEATH** OF **PLANET EARTH!***

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY DID THAT... BUT IT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH.

THE BOXES AREN'T COMPLETELY COVERED WITH RUBBLE.

A NUCLEAR BLAST COULD STILL REACH THEM... BUT, SHORT OF BRINGING THE CEILING DOWN...

I CAN'T THINK OF WHAT ELSE TO DO!

DIE, HUMAN... WITH A BLADE IN YOUR SIDE, ATOP THE VERY RUBBLE YOU CREATED!!

I'VE SEEN UGLY AND STUPID BEFORE...

...BUT YOU TITANS TAKE THE NEST!

AS FOR BLADES...

TRY MINE!

AGGG!

:CHIK:

THESE TITANS WOULDN'T LAST TWO CYCLES ON HIVEWORLD!

SHEALTH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THE RUBBLE?!

S'NOT ME! DIFFERENT TYPE OF ENERGY 'N MINE!

IN THE PAST TWO DAYS, MEGALITH HAS WITNESSED DESTRUCTIVE FORCES HE NEVER IMAGINED...

THE POWER OF AN ANGRY DRAGON...

...THE ENERGY BLASTS OF FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY...

...AN ARMY OF ROBOTS...

...BUT NOTHING...

NOTHING** CAN MATCH THE RAW POWER...THE **WONDER** EVEN... OF ONE QUARTER OF EARTH'S ELEMENTAL STRIKE FORCE— **WATR!

IS THAT... A GOD?

UH... I DON'T THINK SO...WELL, MAYBE.

HE... CONTROLS ALL...THAT WATER...

HUH? OH...

HE'S A HUMAN ELEMENTAL NAMED WATR, SO I AM INFORMED BY GYMCRACK.

AT THE MENTION OF HIS NAME, THE BLUE MAGE HYBRID APPEARS IN THE WATER STREAM, ENCASED IN A PERFECT ELDRICH GLOBE.

THIRTY TICKS TO IMPACT!

GET OUT OF THIS CRATER!

IF WE FAIL TO BLOCKADE THE MISSILE, THIS AREA WILL BECOME LIKE UNTO A BLOSSOMING STAR!

LORD ESCHED GO WITH YOU, MY FRIEND.

IT'S UP TO YOU, NOW.

100 YARDS STRAIGHT UP, IN THE CRATER OF MOUNT ST. HELENS...

...THE POUNDING STREAM OF WATER FINALLY FRACTURES THE COOLED ASH CRATER FLOOR...

POK

...ALLOWING A DESPERATE ELEMENTAL TO SLIP THROUGH LIKE A HUNGRY MORAY EEL.

GYMCRACK— GATHER YOUR STRENGTH, KID! WE'RE DOWN TO SECONDS, NOW!

I AM READY, WATR. FOR THE GREEN EARTH SHALL PERISH IF WE FAIL!

NONE OF THAT! I'VE NEVER BEEN WRONG... AND I'M NOT STARTING TODAY!

WITH A MOMENT'S CONCENTRATION, WATR GATHERS A SWIMMING-POOL'S WORTH OF WATER AROUND HIS SWIRLING FORM.

NOW, GYMCRACK! DO YOUR VOODOO!

AYE, WATR!

FASTER AND FASTER THE WHIRLPOOL SPINS...

...THE RISING ROAR OF MISSILE ENGINES POUNDS INTO HIS HEAD...

...THE ROAR SIGNALING THE DEATH-KNELL OF A PLANET.

MAGICAL ENERGY SURGES OUT OF THE YOUNG HYBRID, COMPRESSING AND HARDENING WATR'S 100-FOOT DISC FAR PAST EVEN THE MEASURE OF STEEL!

SILENT PRAYERS ARE OFFERED...

...TO MOTHER EARTH...

...AND TO AN ALIEN GODDESS...

IVIVINVO

WOOOOOOO!!!

IT DIDN'T WORK...!

I'VE GOT...

...TO TRY AGAIN!!

I CAN'T LET IT HIT!

JACK...IT'S TOO LATE!

WATR! GET BACK, YOU FOOL!

THE MISSILE'S GONNA HIT BEFORE YOU CAN REACH IT!

LET SILVER STREAK...!

MEGALITH! CYCLONE'S TELLING ME...

THE DRAGON...

...DOESN'T CARE ABOUT US...

...ANYMORE...

HE... WON!

HE WON...

IN A SINGLE MOMENT, THE PORTALS OF HELL ARE SHATTERED, AND ALL THE **DEMONS** CONTAINED WITHIN BURST FORTH, RAVENOUS FOR DESTRUCTION AND CHAOS.

DEMONS ONLY UNLEASHED A HANDFUL OF TIMES IN EARTH'S HISTORY...AND, AT LEAST TWICE, **THOUSANDS** DIED INSTANTLY, AND MANY TIMES THAT NUMBER IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS THAT FOLLOWED.

AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS DEVICE IS A MERE FRACTION OF HIROSHIMA'S, ITS IMPACT WILL AFFECT ALL LIFE ON EARTH...

BUT...AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT MERELY THE SPEEDING UP OF EVENTS THAT PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER HAVE ALREADY SET INTO MOTION...

FIRST WAVE— LIGHT!

BLINDING, DEADLY WAVES, CAPABLE OF BURNING UNSHIELDED EYES INTO BLINDNESS...

EVEN THROUGH CLOSED LIDS.

DON'T LOOK!

DON'T LOOK!

BACK INTO THE CAVE!

SHEALTH IS TOO FAR AWAY! HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

DON'T WORRY! I CAN PUSH IT ALL BACK!

SECOND WAVE— WIND!

AIR PUSHED AWAY FROM GROUND ZERO BY IMPOSSIBLY STRONG FORCES— CARRYING WITH IT DEADLY SHARDS OF LOOSE ROCK.

NOT THE SHRAPNEL, YOU FOOL!

UGH!

THIRD WAVE—

THE HEAT!

A SEARING WALL OF ALMOST TANGIBLE **FIRE**— INSTANTLY SUPER-HEATING THE AIR TO A CHOKING, UNBREATHABLE LEVEL...

CHOKE

IS THAT CHOKE IT?

FOURTH WAVE—
SOUND WAVE!
WOW... I NEVER DREAMED...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE RADIATION...
I'M MAKING THE RADIATION MOLECULES SO HEAVY...
...THAT THEY SINK TO THE EARTH.
WON'T MAKE THE RADIATION GO AWAY... BUT IT'LL PROTECT THE REST OF THE AREA.
BUT ONLY FER A COUPLE DAYS... MAYBE.
FROM THE HEART OF THE DETONATION...
NONONONONONONONONONONONONONONONONONO
WATR?! YOU OKAY?
I FAILED!
THE WHOLE WORLD...COUNTING ON ME...
AND I BLEW IT!
I HAVE THE POWERS OF A GOD...
...AND I COULDN'T STOP IT!!
DON'T LOSE IT NOW, MAN.
WE STILL YOUR POWER! THIS ISN'T OVER YET!
IT FEELS LIKE IT TO ME.

WOOSH!

WHAT?

HE'S BACK!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LITTLE HEROES...

YOU'VE PROVIDED MUCH ENTERTAINMENT WHILE MY PLAN MARCHES FORWARD!

BUT WE'VE REACHED END-GAME...

WATCH!

THEN...

...A ½ MILE-WIDE GEYSER OF MOLTEN LAVA ERUPTS INTO THE SKY, SPEWING VOLUMES OF SOOT, ASH, AND...DEADLY CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS... INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

HE'S... WON...

IT'S... MY FAULT...

IT CAN'T BE...

THE PLANET IS... DOOMED.

THEN... IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

HAHAHA

AN EARTHQUAKE!

IT MUST BE PART OF THE ERUPTION!

NO! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

IT'S ALL WRONG...

GOT TO THINK!

IT'S REM!

SHE'S CONJURING AN IMAGE IN OUR MINDS!

DON'T BELIEVE IT!

SEE?! THE MAGMA COLUMN IS FADING AWAY!

HAHAHAHA!

VERY GOOD, MEGALITH. YOU FIGURED ME OUT AGAIN...

...TOO BAD IT WON'T SAVE YOU!

IT'S TOO LATE!

THIS IS FAR BEYOND YOU, HUMANS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE ARM THINGS ARE...

...BUT I'D BET MY FAKE HAND THEY'RE BAD NEWS!

ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS DESTROY *ANYTHING* YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

STOP IT!

DON'T UNDERSTAND, REM?

I UNDERSTAND *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

NO, YOU DON'T!

WE'RE JUST *SURVIVING!* SOMETHING YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED, MEGALITH!

THE HELLBENDERS FIGHT FOR LIFE EVERY DAY!

WE DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, BUT HUMAN IGNORANCE AND BLIND HATRED...

FORCE US TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN DRAGON'S IMAGE!

DON'T BELIEVE HER!
ANOTHER?
I AM THE URTH!
TRUSTING HER IS *FATAL!*
WE DON'T EXPECT YOU TO TRUST US!
WE EXPECT YOU TO STAY OUT OF OUR WAY!
REM—AND HER ALLIES, THE HELLBENDERS... *STOLE* AND *FIRED* NUCLEAR MISSILES!
ONLY AN ELEMENTAL CAN IMAGINE THE *PAIN* THE PLANET AND I SUFFERED WHEN THAT MISSILE WAS DETONATED!
AND OUR PAIN IS IGNORED?!
CAN IT, FREAK!
WE'RE NOT LISTENING TO ANY MORE THREATS!
AND LET THE FINAL BATTLE BE JOINED!
NO! WOULD MS MYSTIC FIGHT LIKE THIS? WITHOUT ALL THE FACTS?
GENTLE FYRE... *LOOK* WHAT THEY'VE DONE!
BUT, WHAT IF THIS TRULY MEANS THEIR SURVIVAL?

"SHOULDN'T WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE DOING BEFORE WE STOP THEM?!"

BUT, WHILE WORDS ARE BATTED ABOUT LIKE TENNIS BALLS...

...TIME MOVES FORWARD!

FIRE!!

HAHAHA HA HA HA!

YES, MY IRRADIATED CHILDREN, I SHALL BRING YOU AND YOUR LIKE A SOURCE OF RADIATION THAT WILL FEED YOU FOR A LIFETIME!

THIS WAS MY VOW TO YOU... NOW WITNESS THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT OATH!

FOR DRAGON!

FOR OUR FUTURE!

DESTROY THE HUMANS THAT WOULD DESTROY US!!

OOOOFFF!

IT'S A LIE, YOU KNOW, CYCLONE.

THIS IS WRONG!

NO ONE IS SEEING CLEARLY!

I MUST CONVINCE THE OTHERS ...FAST!

DIE, ELEMENTAL!

YOUR DAY IS DONE!

YES, GYMCRACK... BUT THE TRUTH HAS NOT YET REVEALED ITSELF!

TRUE, BUT—

THE IMMEDIATE TRUTH IS...

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

—THAT—

...THE LASER CANNON...

...WILL DESTROY THE PLANET!

ARG!

TO BE CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 17...

Plot: **Neal Adams** Story **Peter Stone** Pencils **Louis Small, Jr.** Inks **Rudy Nebres & Joel Adams**
Color **Victoria Erskine** Cover **Michael Golden & Cory**

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I KNOW WHAT YOUR "VALUABLES" ARE... THE DANGER THEY REPRESENT... AND IF I HAD THE TIME-- I WOULD RAZE THIS CITY, LEAVING ONLY A BAD MEMORY.!!

UH... MYSTIC?

WHAT'S UH GOING ON?

BACK INTO THE TITAN'S TUNNEL?

IT IS MERELY A CONDUIT... A PHYSICAL ACCESS WAY THAT ALLOWS YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME.

FROM HERE... WE TRAVEL FAST FOR SPEED IS OUR ONLY REMAINING WEAPON.

OKAY, OKAY... BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I MEAN... WE ALREADY DESTROYED THE TITAN'S COOLANT PLANT DOWN HERE...

... THE ONE PRODUCING ALL THE OZONE DESTROYING CFCs.

WE HALTED A NUISANCE... AND THAT IS ALL, DON'T UNHINGE YOUR ARM PATTING YOURSELF ON THE BACK.

OH.

AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT THE DINOSAURS WERE SO DESPERATE TO KEEP COLD.

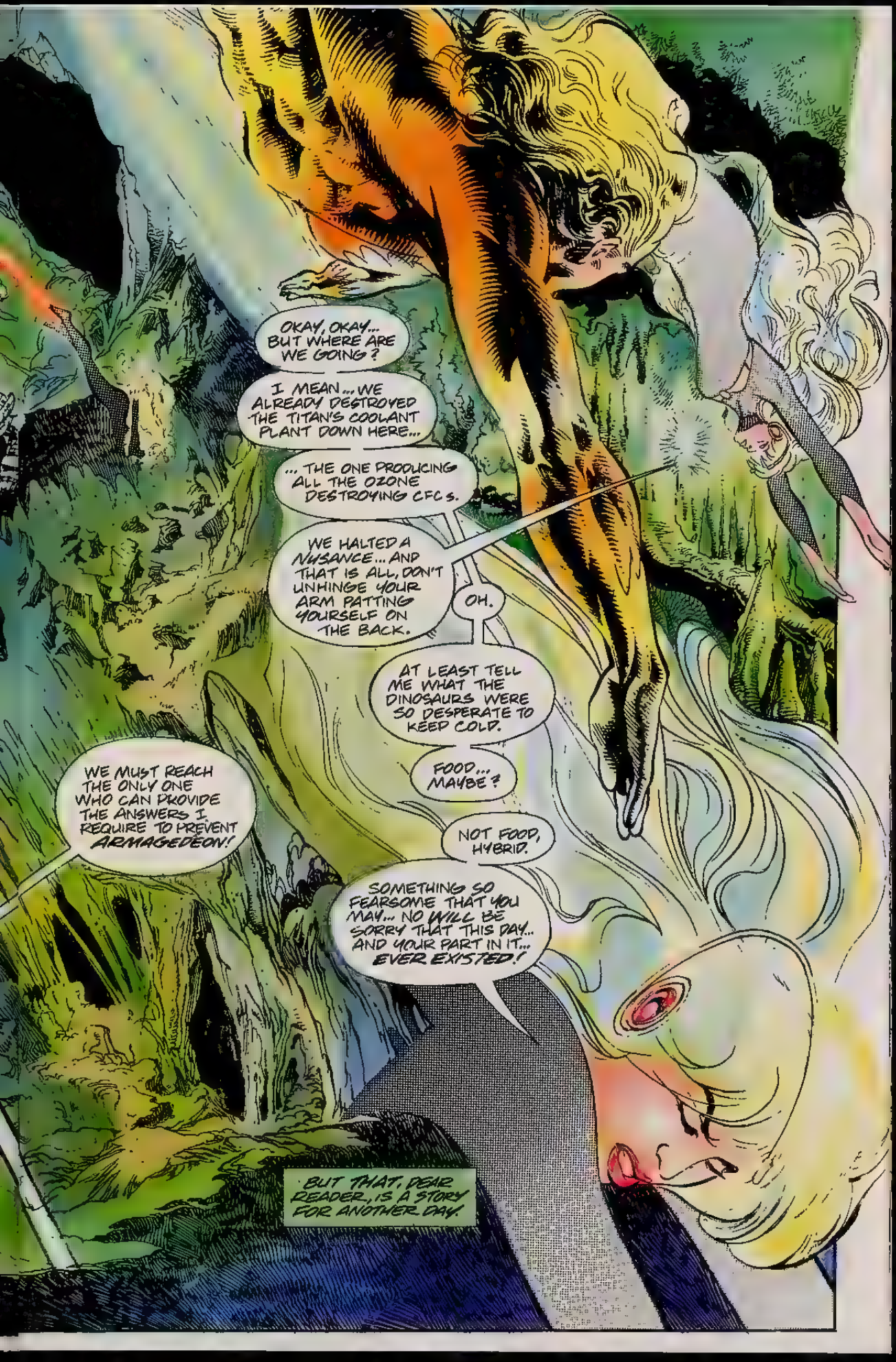
FOOD... MAYBE?

NOT FOOD, HYBRID.

WE MUST REACH THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PROVIDE THE ANSWERS I REQUIRE TO PREVENT ARMAGEDEON!

SOMETHING SO FEARSOME THAT YOU MAY... NO WILL BE SORRY THAT THIS DAY... AND YOUR PART IN IT... EVER EXISTED!

BUT THAT, DEAR READER, IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY.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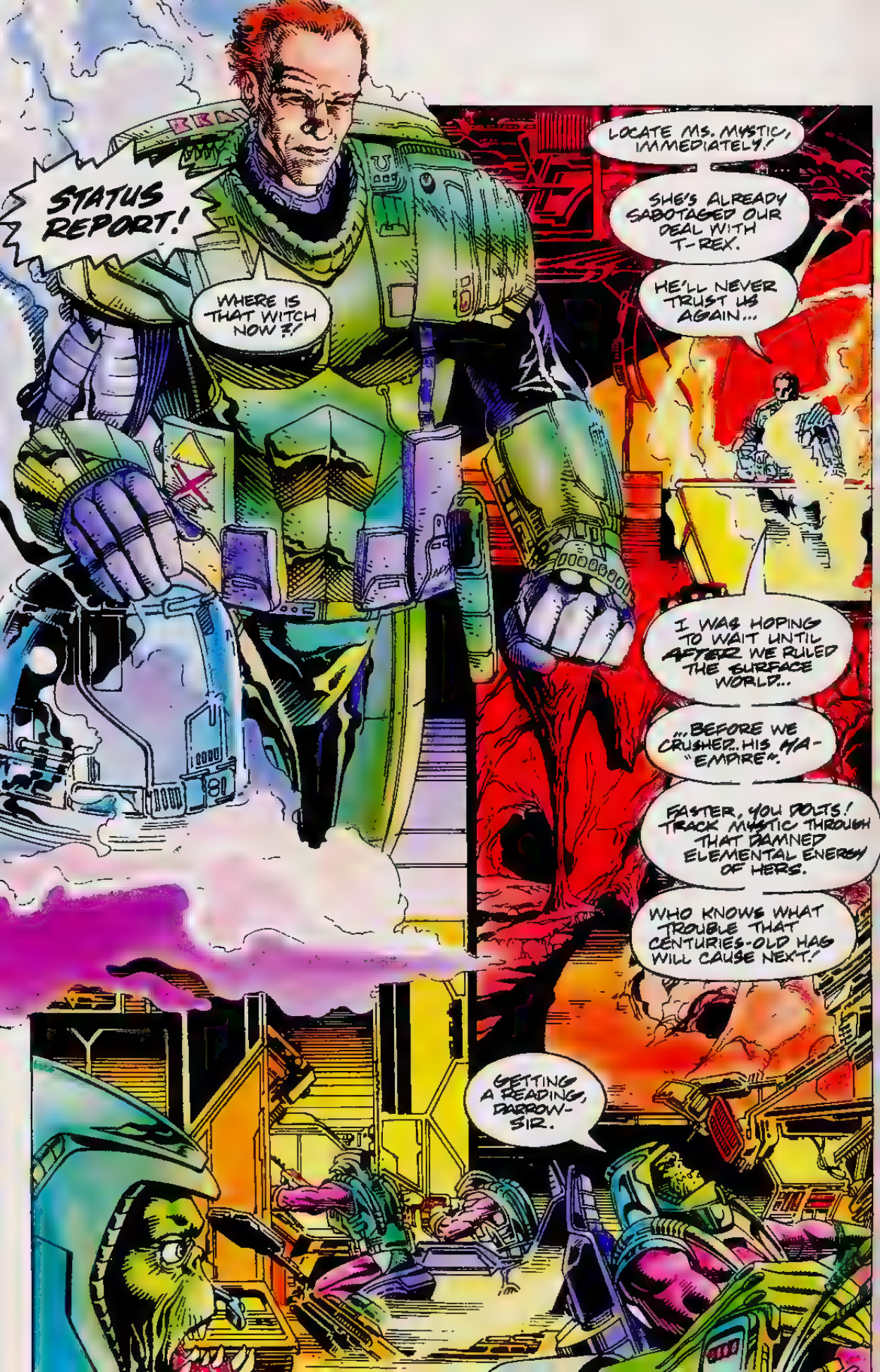
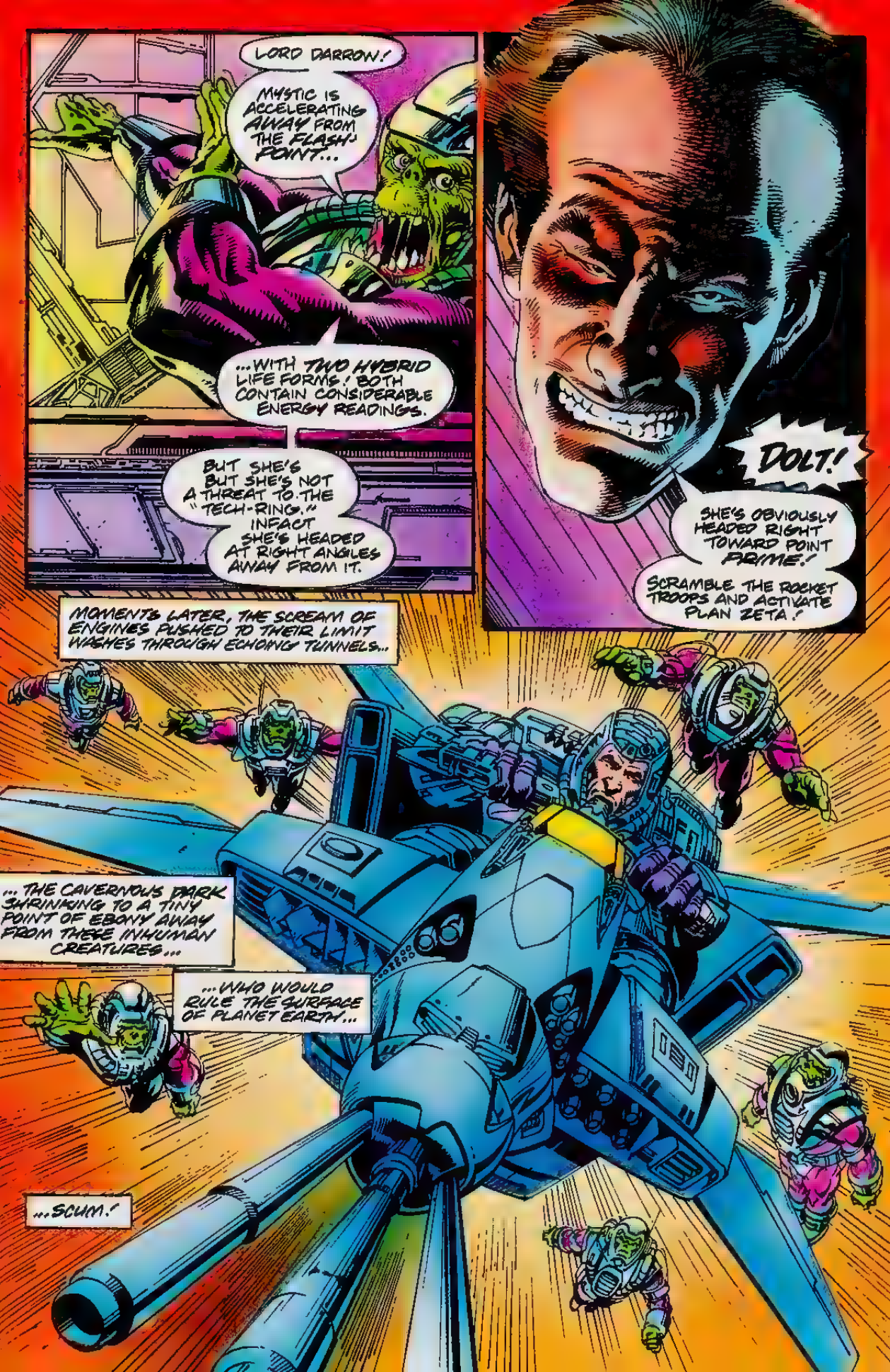
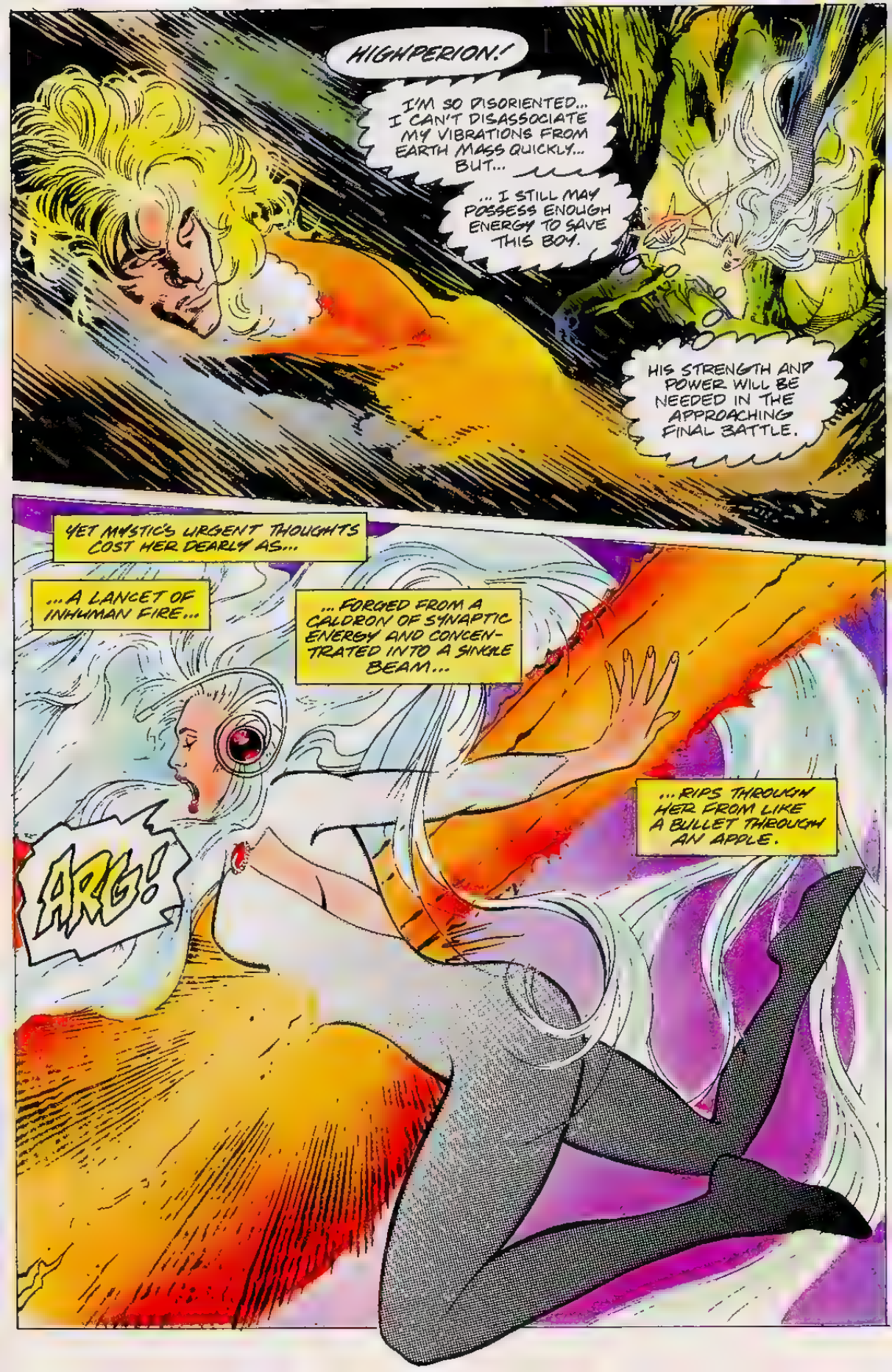
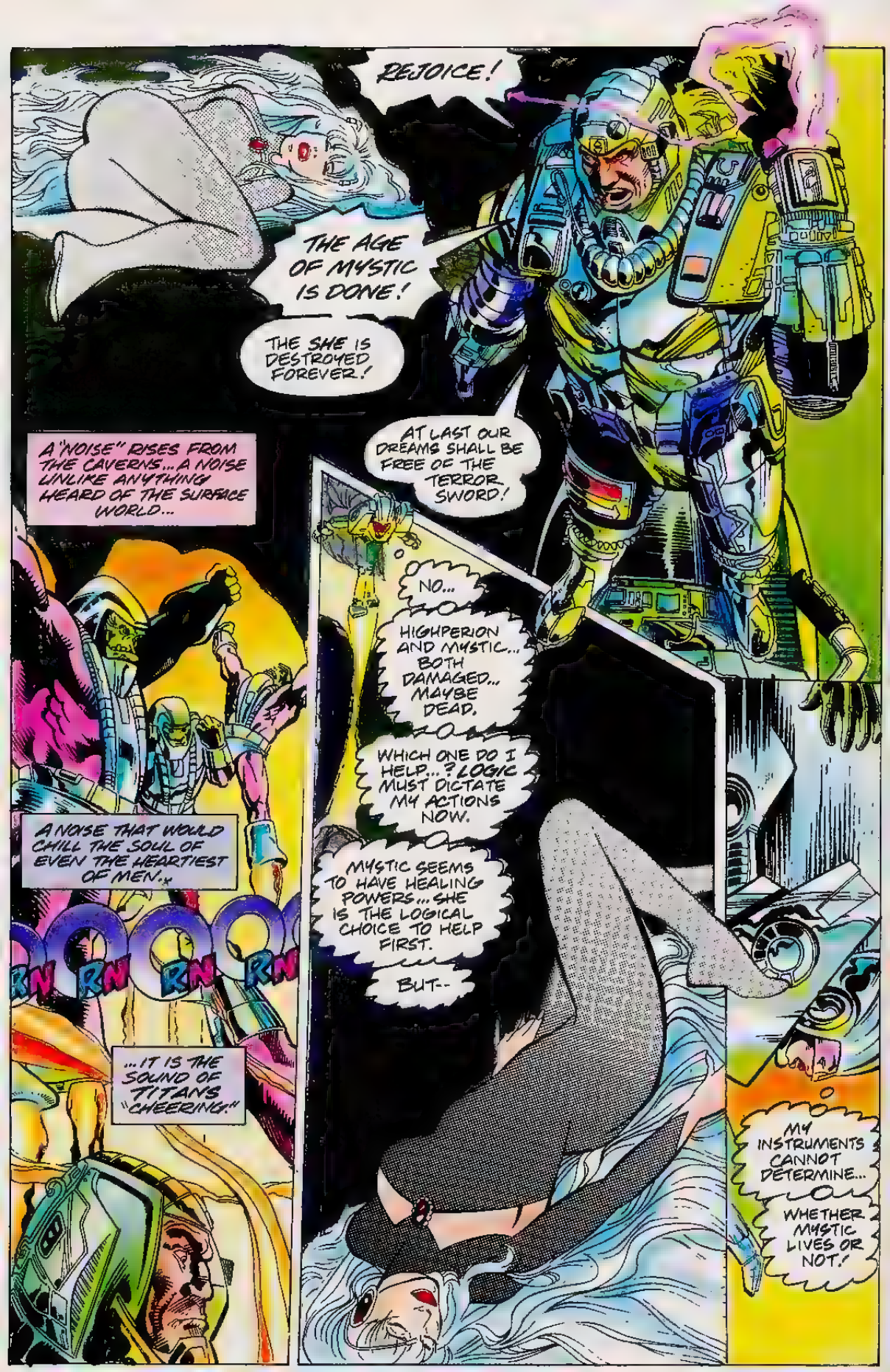
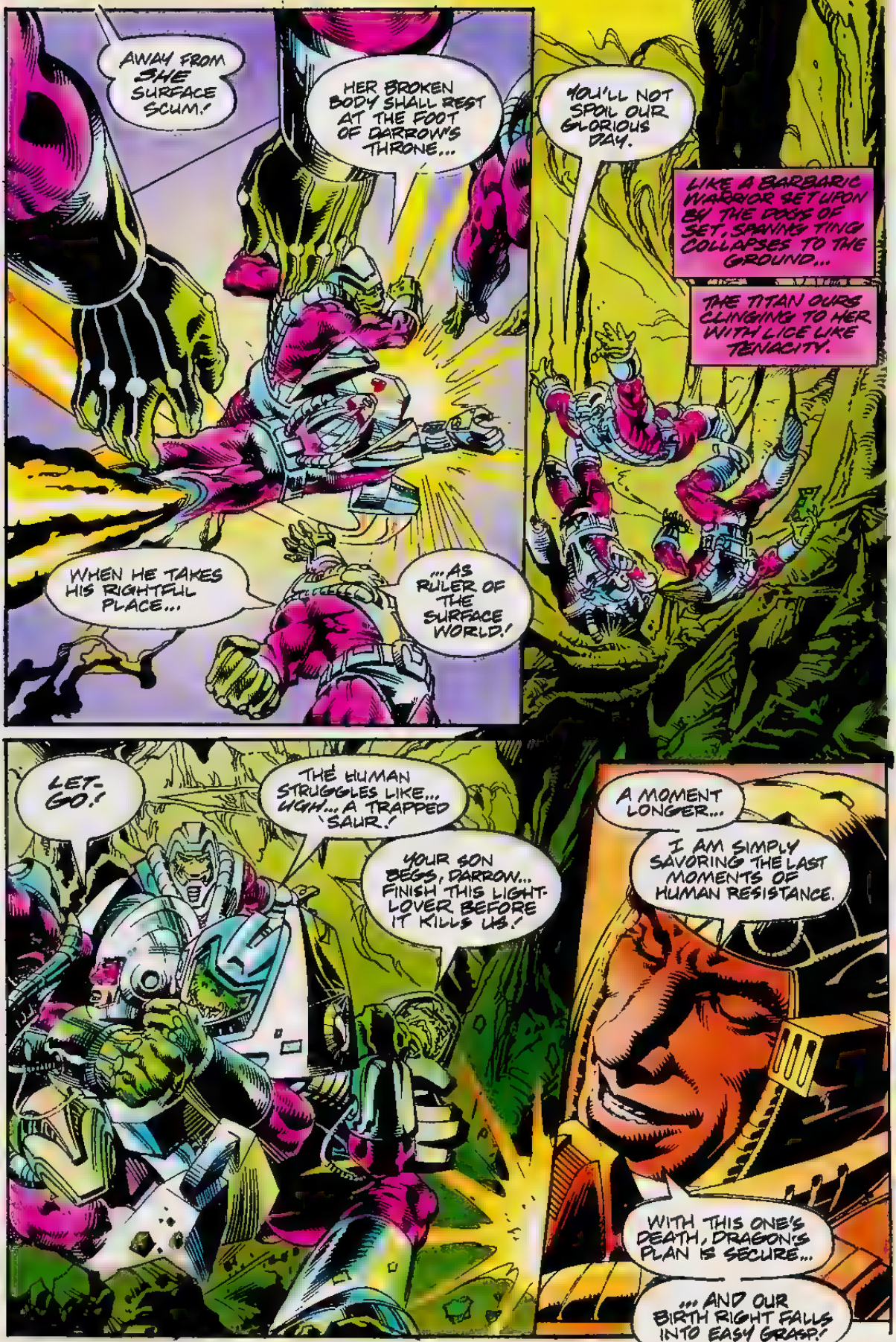

STATUS REPORT!
WHERE IS THAT WITCH NOW?!
LOCATE MS. MYSTIC, IMMEDIATELY!
SHE'S ALREADY SABOTAGED OUR DEAL WITH T-REX.
HE'LL NEVER TRUST US AGAIN...
I WAS HOPING TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER WE RULED THE SURFACE WORLD...
...BEFORE WE CRUSHED HIS MA-"EMPIRE".
FASTER, YOU DOLTS! TRACK MYSTIC THROUGH THAT DAMNED ELEMENTAL ENERGY OF HERS.
WHO KNOWS WHAT TROUBLE THAT CENTURIES-OLD HAG WILL CAUSE NEXT!
GETTING A READING, DARROW-SIR.


LORD DARROW!
MYSTIC IS ACCELERATING AWAY FROM THE FLASH' POINT...
...WITH TWO HYBRID LIFE FORMS! BOTH CONTAIN CONSIDERABLE ENERGY READINGS.
BUT SHE'S BUT SHE'S NOT A THREAT TO THE "TECH-RING." INFACT SHE'S HEADED AT RIGHT ANGLES AWAY FROM IT.
DOLT!
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY HEADED RIGHT TOWARD POINT PRIME!
SCRAMBLE THE ROCKET TROOPS AND ACTIVATE PLAN ZETA!
MOMENTS LATER, THE SCREAM OF ENGINES PUSHED TO THEIR LIMIT WASHES THROUGH ECHOING TUNNELS...
...THE CAVERNOUS DARK SHRINKING TO A TINY POINT OF EBONY AWAY FROM THESE INHUMAN CREATURES...
...WHO WOULD RULE THE SURFACE OF PLANET EARTH...
...SCUM.!

AS MYSTIC SPANG TING, AND HIGHPERION SPEED TOWARD THEIR MYSTERIOUS GOAL... PRIME...
HIGHPERION! I'M SENSING A GROWING PANIC FROM THE OTHER HYBRIDS.
THEY HAVE FAILED TO DESTROY ALL OF THE MISSLES, ...AND THAT... DRAGON...
YES, I SENSE IT, ALL... GYMCRACK WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS FAILURE.
YOU HYBRIDS SHARE A MENTAL LINK?
HIGHPERION? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HMM. THEY'RE IN A MENTAL TRANCE.
MOMENTS LATER..
THE MISSLE HAS STRUCK... VIBRATIONS ARE PENETRATING EVEN HERE.
MYSTIC! LOOK OUT!! ABOVE.
AHHH!
A MOMENT'S CARELESSNESS...
HIGHPERION IGNORES THE BUFFETING EARTH TREMORS...
...CHOSING TO WARN MYSTIC RATHER THAN PROTECT HIM-SELF AND...
A FOUL BLOW... WAS STRUCK... AT THE BODY OF... THE PLANET!
I... UH... FEEL IT... INSIDE...
WHAT..?
WH. -UGH!
* SEE MEGALITH #3 FOR THE COMPLETE STORY-KRIS.
A NOBLE GESTURE...
...BUT BEFORE HE CAN MOVE, TWENTY TONS OF STALAGTITE COLLAPSES ON HIGHPERION'S BACK, LIKE A FALLING HOUSE OF CARDS...
...TESTING EVEN HIS MOLECULAR PROTECTION.


HIGHPERION!
I'M SO DISORIENTED... I CAN'T DISASSOCIATE MY VIBRATIONS FROM EARTH MASS QUICKLY... BUT...
... I STILL MAY POSSESS ENOUGH ENERGY TO SAVE THIS BOY.
HIS STRENGTH AND POWER WILL BE NEEDED IN THE APPROACHING FINAL BATTLE.
YET MYSTIC'S URGENT THOUGHTS COST HER DEARLY AS...
...A LANCET OF INHUMAN FIRE...
... FORGED FROM A CALDRON OF SYNAPTIC ENERGY AND CONCENTRATED INTO A SINGLE BEAM...
...RIPS THROUGH HER FROM LIKE A BULLET THROUGH AN APPLE.
ARG!


REJOICE!
THE AGE OF MYSTIC IS DONE!
THE SHE IS DESTROYED FOREVER!
AT LAST OUR DREAMS SHALL BE FREE OF THE TERROR SWORD!
A "NOISE" RISES FROM THE CAVERNS... A NOISE UNLIKE ANYTHING HEARD OF THE SURFACE WORLD...
NO...
HIGHPERION AND MYSTIC... BOTH DAMAGED... MAYBE DEAD.
WHICH ONE DO I HELP...? LOGIC MUST DICTATE MY ACTIONS NOW.
A NOISE THAT WOULD CHILL THE SOUL OF EVEN THE HEARTIEST OF MEN.
MYSTIC SEEMS TO HAVE HEALING POWERS... SHE IS THE LOGICAL CHOICE TO HELP FIRST.
BUT--
RN RN RN RN
...IT IS THE SOUND OF TITANS "CHEERING."
MY INSTRUMENTS CANNOT DETERMINE...
WHETHER MYSTIC LIVES OR NOT.


AWAY FROM SHE SURFACE SCUM!
HER BROKEN BODY SHALL REST AT THE FOOT OF DARROW'S THRONE...
YOU'LL NOT SPOIL OUR GLORIOUS DAY.
LIKE A BARBARIC WARRIOR SET UPON BY THE DOGS OF SET, SPANNING TING COLLAPSES TO THE GROUND...
THE TITAN OURS CLINGING TO HER WITH LICE LIKE TENACITY.
WHEN HE TAKES HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE...
...AS RULER OF THE SURFACE WORLD!
LET-GO!
THE HUMAN STRUGGLES LIKE... UGH... A TRAPPED 'SAUR!
YOUR SON BEGS, DARROW... FINISH THIS LIGHT-LOVER BEFORE IT KILLS US!
A MOMENT LONGER...
I AM SIMPLY SAVORING THE LAST MOMENTS OF HUMAN RESISTANCE.
WITH THIS ONE'S DEATH, DRAGON'S PLAN IS SECURE...
...AND OUR BIRTH RIGHT FALLS INTO EASY GRASP!

BUT-LIKE A CHILD'S BALL BOUNCING THROUGH TIN SOLDIERS--
--A FIVE TON CHUNK OF STALACTITE SMASHES INTO THE TITANS...
...HURLED BY THE HYBRID WHOSE MOLECULES ARE PACKED TIGHTER THAN ANY OBJECT ON THIS PLANET...
...WHO GLOWS LIKE THE MAMOUTH STAR THAT HIS HOME WORLD OF AUROLO CIRCLED.
YOU...HYBRID... LIVE?!
NO...
LEAVE-
-MY-
-FRIENDS-
-ALONE!!

SHADOW
FOOL!
UGH!
WITHOUT MYSTIC, YOU'RE LOST!
THE NUCLEAR PAYLOAD HAS ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS BEFORE YOUR WORLD IS ENGULFED IN MAGMA FIRE AND COVERED IN NUCLEAR ASH!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
EVEN NOW, YOU SLUGS...
...THE HEROES OF EARTH GATHER FOR THE FINAL CONFLICT!
YOUR MASTER- OR THE DRAGON- SHALL NOT TRIUMPH!
URK!
THE HYBRIDS CAME TO EARTH TO STOP THE DEATHWATCH--
AND BY THE GREAT CHIP- WE SHALL!

DARROW IS CORRECT ABOUT ONE THING... WE NEED MYSTIC'S KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL.
BUT HER WOUND LEAKS ENERGY... LIKE BLOOD TO AN ORGANIC.
THEN HER METABOLISM MUST BE BASED ON THE CONCENTRATION OF ELEMENTAL ENERGY...
AND ALTHOUGH I CANNOT CREATE IT...
...MY ARMOR CAN REFOCUS THE RANDOM ENERGY THAT EXISTS NATURALLY IN THE AIR BACK INTO HER WOUND.
BUT HER COSTUME IS RIPPED OPEN. THE ENERGY WILL SIMPLY BLEED OUT AGAIN.
THE ARMORED HUMAN-TRIES TO REVIVE THE SHE!
STOP HER!
BUT IF I AUGMENT THE PROCESS WITH MY OWN POWER PACKS. FOCUSSING THE ENERGY LIKE COHERENT LIGHT IS FOCUSSED TO BECOME A LASER...
I CAN SEAL THE TEAR- THE WOUND.

FORM BEHIND ME, CHILDREN.
THE HYBRIDS ARE PLAYING FOR TIME...
... TIME THEY FALSELY BELIEVE THEY HAVE.
DON'T STOP, SPANNG!
YOU MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT IF THESE TWO LIZARD DOGS ARE WORRIED ABOUT IT.
WAIT.
AGAIN, YOU UNDERESTIMATE MY POWER.
BUT FOR THE LAST TIME, DARROW.
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
NO!
THE GAME IS DONE!
YOU CANNOT LIVE...
RISING AS THOUGH OUT OF THICK SYRUP, MYSTIC SEEMS TO FLOW FORWARD RATHER THAN MOVE...
AS THOUGH STEPPING FROM ANOTHER... SLOWER DIMENSION...

NEVER HAVE THE DARROWS AND THE TITANS STUDIED THEIR FOES ADEQUATELY--

--THEY ARE TO DISTAINFULL AND ARROGANT.

AGAIN, THIS DAY... THEIR IGNORANCE WILL COST THEM DEARLY!

FOR BREAKING THE MOST BASIC LAWS OF NATURE-

TRYING TO DESTROY AN ENTIRE SPECIES-

AN ENTIRE PLANETARY ENVIRONMENT!

I CURSE YOU!

FROM THIS DAY FORTH, MY RAGE SHALL LIVE FOREVER IN YOUR RACE'S GENETIC MEMORY--

--TRANSFERED FROM HELLSPAWNED FATHER TO MISBEGOTTEN SON UNTIL YOUR PUTRID RACE FINALLY VANISHES FROM THE BOWELS OF THIS PLANET-

-FOREVER!!

AND YOU, DARROW...
NO! YOU'RE... CRAZY!
I... GIVE UP!
NOT THIS TIME, SLUG.
PERSPECTIVE IS NEEDED, DARROW.
I-AM-GOING-TO-KILL-YOU!
BUT TRY.. ONE LAST TIME...
TRY TO KILL ME!!
PLEASE!
NNNNO.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SHATTER MY SOUL...
...WITH THAT BIG GUN OF YOURS?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY JUST ONE MORE TIME?
YES!
DIE, YOU CRAZY ITCH!
HA!
YOUR FINAL EMBARASSMENT IN-HUMAN DOG!
A FUTILE GESTURE PUT ASIDE WITH BUT A SIMPLE WAVE!

GONE...
LIKE A COWARDLY SCAVENGER.
LOST IN THE FLARE OF PLASM ENERGY.
RUN DARROW-
-FOR THE BEASTS OF HADES CHASE YOU!
AND THEY NEVER TIRE!
WH...MYSTIC?
THE EXPLOSION EARLIER... WAS A NUCLEAR MISSLE.
YES. I FELT IT, TOO.
BUT SINCE THEN I CAN'T SEEM TO CONTACT THE OTHER HYBRIDS.
DID THEY... DID WE FAIL?
DRAGON'S PLAN IS FAR MORE DEVIOUS THAN ONE NUCLEAR DETONATION.
LOOK AND GROW WISE, HYBRID.
EVEN NOW, YOUR COMRADES AND ALLIES STRUGGLE ON THE SURFACE WITH THE HELLBENDERS...
THE EBB AND FLOW OF THIS BATTLE IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE TO ME...
BUT LOOK IF YOU WISH.
THERE...
IS YOUR ENEMY...
DRAGON!
YES..
YES..
LET THE HEAVENS ROCK... FOR IN THE END, IT SIGNIFIES NOTHING!
DRAGON HAS ALREADY WON.!!

THERE!
HE IS THE KEY!
THE DRAGON IN HIS WEAKER HUMAN FORM!
IF HE FALLS THE HELLBENDERS ARE LOST.
THEN STRIKE WITH ALL YOUR POWER, FRIEND CYCLONE...
FOR A PLANETS LIFE REST IN OUR WEARY LIMBS!
TURN DRAGON!
EH?
TURN AND FACE THE DEEP BLUE MAGE OF BRIN WORL--
--AND THE AIR MASTER OF BRRNTONFERS!
WE DID IT!
HUAAARRG!
THE DRAGON IS DEFEATED!
HAHAHA HAHAHA
YOU BLOODY FOOLS!!

DO YOU THINK ME NOTHING WHEN I AM HUMAN?!

YOU CANNOT HARM ME!

AND IF YOU DESIRE TO FACE MY TRUE POWER...

...THEN WITNESS THE POWER OF RADIATION!

THE POWER TO MUTATE A FRAIL MORTAL HUMAN BEING...

...INTO THE NEW MASTER OF THE WORLD--

-THE -DRAGON- KING!!

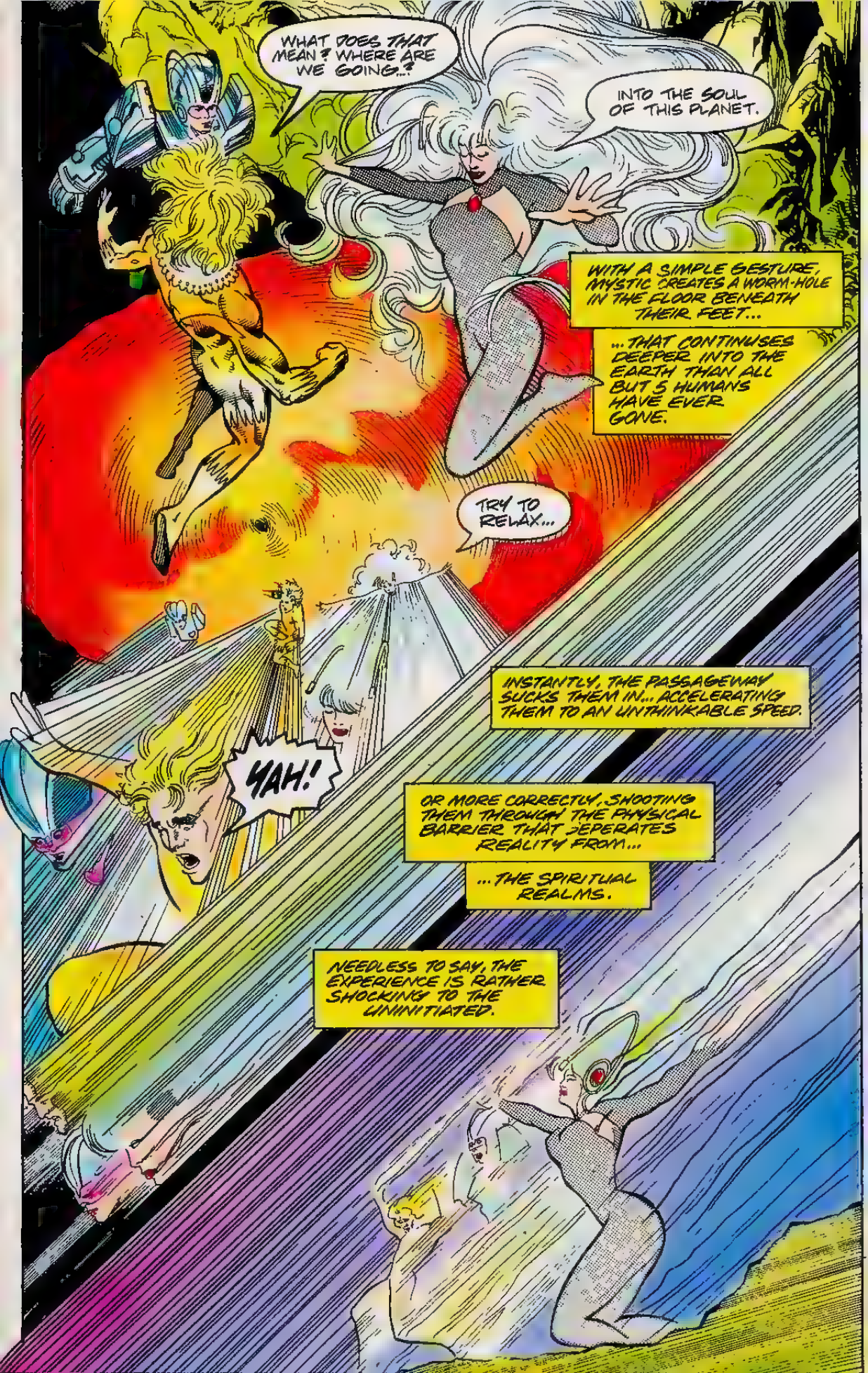
NOW- SHALL WE TRY THAT AGAIN?

I LOOK FORWARD TO FEASTING ON THE FRESH MEAT OF AN ALIEN CARCASS!

DO YOUR WORST, HELL SPAWN!

I NEITHER RESPECT NOR FEAR YOUR STRENGTH!

YOU WILL!
BUT FIRST, THE DARK-SKIN WILL FALL BY HIS OWN WEAPON!
AND YOU, MAGE?
CAN YOU MAGIC FIRE INTO WATER?!
WOH!
WIND!
HE GOT A JUMP ON ME... CAN'T PUSH HIM BACK...
WINGS... TOO STRONG...
AHHHHH! BREAKING MY SHEILDS...!
THIS RESTS POORLY ON MY SHOULDERS. OTHERS FIGHT WHILE WE TALK.
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW ALL THE FACTS. URTH!
GODLINGS! IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE NOT MADE THIS FIGHT YOUR OWN. I NEED YOU HERE...
HEY! HEY!
IT'S OUR FAVORITE LONG HAIRED LOVELY.
WHERE IS "HERE"?
THERE IS A DANGER TO PRIME.
A REAL DANGER.
I HAVE SUMMONED THE ELEMENTALS... THEY ALSO NEED DIRECTION AND FOCUS.
BUT...
BUT... YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO LIKE OUR NEXT MODE OF TRAVEL.
COME AND MEET ME... ALL YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED.
OH?


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHERE ARE WE GOING...?
INTO THE SOUL OF THIS PLANET.
WITH A SIMPLE GESTURE, MYSTIC CREATES A WORM-HOLE IN THE FLOOR BENEATH THEIR FEET...
...THAT CONTINUES DEEPER INTO THE EARTH THAN ALL BUT 5 HUMANS HAVE EVER GONE.
TRY TO RELAX...
INSTANTLY, THE PASSAGEWAY SUCKS THEM IN... ACCELERATING THEM TO AN UNTHINKABLE SPEED.
YAH!
OR MORE CORRECTLY, SHOOTING THEM THROUGH THE PHYSICAL BARRIER THAT SEPERATES REALITY FROM...
...THE SPIRITUAL REALMS.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE EXPERIENCE IS RATHER SHOCKING TO THE UNINITIATED.

THEN- THERE IS A LOUD SNAP IN THEIR HEADS... AS THEIR SENSES FINALLY CATCH UP TO THEIR BODIES.
AHH!
UHN!
WH-WH-WHERE ARE WE?
THE HEART OF THE PLANET...
...WHERE ALL LIFE FORMS, EVEN THOSE LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME, ARE REMEMBERED AND LOVED.
WHERE ALL LIFE, UNLIMITED AND WONDEROUS, SPRANG FROM...
...CARED FOR BY A LOVING... MOTHER.
BUT.. WHY ARE WE HERE?
WE ARE HERE TO TALK.
TALK? TO WHO?
TO HER. THE MOTHER OF ALL LIFE ON PLANET EARTH.
BUT WHY IS SHE CRYING?
BECAUSE, HIGHPERION... SHE IS DYING.

WHERE, DEVILSPAWN—

WHERE!?!

HORROR IS TIRED OF SEARCHING FOR MYSTERIOUS ANSWERS!

BE PATIENT. WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT, WE MAY FIND THE KEY TO HALTING THE DEATHWATCH!

BUT...

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY... BUT I FEEL A GREAT SADNESS.

WHILE THE **FINAL BATTLE** TO STOP DRAGON'S INSIDIOUS PLAN TO IRRADIATE THE PLANET **RAGES** MANY MILES ABOVE... ON THE SURFACE...

ONE HYBRID WEREWOLF AND ONE MYSTERIOUS CREATURE SEARCH FOR... **SOMETHING.**

DEVILSPAWN, BEING MORE **EMPATH** THAN **TELEPATH, KNOWS** THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE NIGHTMARE IS...

...**HERE**... SOMEWHERE.

TRICKS!!

DRAGON NOT REALLY HERE!

SHOULD'A KNOWN... NO SCENT!

WHO'S DOING THIS?!

HA HA HA

WHAT FUN YOU HYBRIDS ARE!

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF GAMES WE CAN PLAY...

BEFORE I...

...KILL...

HARRRRG!

FOOLISH CHILD.

BUT THE NEXT EVENT IS NOT FOR HER EARS...

...SO I HAD TO DRAIN ALL THE ENERGY FROM HER.

SHE'LL RECOVER SOON ENOUGH.

FOLLOW ME TO YOUR GOAL.

GREETINGS, HYBRID BROTHERS.

GLAD WE FINALLY LINKED UP.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

MYSTIC...

BIG HAIR...

SMELLS PRETTY.

HUH?

YOU'RE CRAZY!

NO ONE BACK THERE!

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE WITH THAT ENTITY BEHIND YOU.

SHAPES OF THE OUTER RIM!

THE SPIRIT OF THIS PLANET!

BIG WOMAN... WHY'S SHE CRYING?

SISTER, ARE THESE TWO THE ONES YOU ARE WAITING FOR?

NO. THERE ARE... OTHERS.

MY CHILDREN... *THEY* ARE NEEDED.

HIYA, MOM. WHAT'S FER DINNER?

BARON...DON'T BE OBNOXIOUS.

TOO LATE, FYRE. BARON WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE ANY SITUATION SERIOUSLY.

AYE. IN THE FACE OF ARMAGEDON, BARON WOULD APPLY GRAFITTI TO THE GATES OF ETERNITY.

HO, CREATOR... MOTHER.

EARTH 4, THE AGENTS OF YOUR WILL, STAND READY TO DO YOUR BIDDING!

NOW... I CAN SPEAK.

TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, YOU MUST HEAR THE FULL STORY.

WHEN HUMANS SHATTERED THE PARTICLES OF EXISTENCE WITH AN ATOMIC BOMB, THEY CREATED THE DRAGON-KING.

HE AROSE AMONG MEN IN THE WAKE OF THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN THE LAND CALLED— *JAPAN.*

BUT ONE GENERATION LATER, HE SIRED THE NUCLEAR DRAGON— *SON* OF THE DRAGON-KING.

DRAGON MATURED... *MORE* POWERFUL THAN HIS FATHER. HE USED MYSTIC FORCES TO GATHER AROUND HIM VICTIMS OF RADIATION LIKE HIMSELF...

...USING THOSE SAME FORCES TO CONTROL THEM.

THEY ARE KNOWN TO YOU AS — THE HELLBENDERS!

LIAR! WE CAME TO HIM BECAUSE WE CHOSE TO!

WE ARE ONLY TRYING TO SECURE A CONSTANT SOURCE OF NUCLEAR RADIATION, WHICH WE NEED...

...OR WE'LL *DIE!*

DRAGON IS SIMPLY HELPING US ACHIEVE THAT!

NO AMOUNT OF EXPLOSIVES CAN **CREATE** A VOLCANIC ERUPTION... BUT, IF A FUSION REACTION IS CREATED DEEP UNDER MOUNT SAINT HELENS...

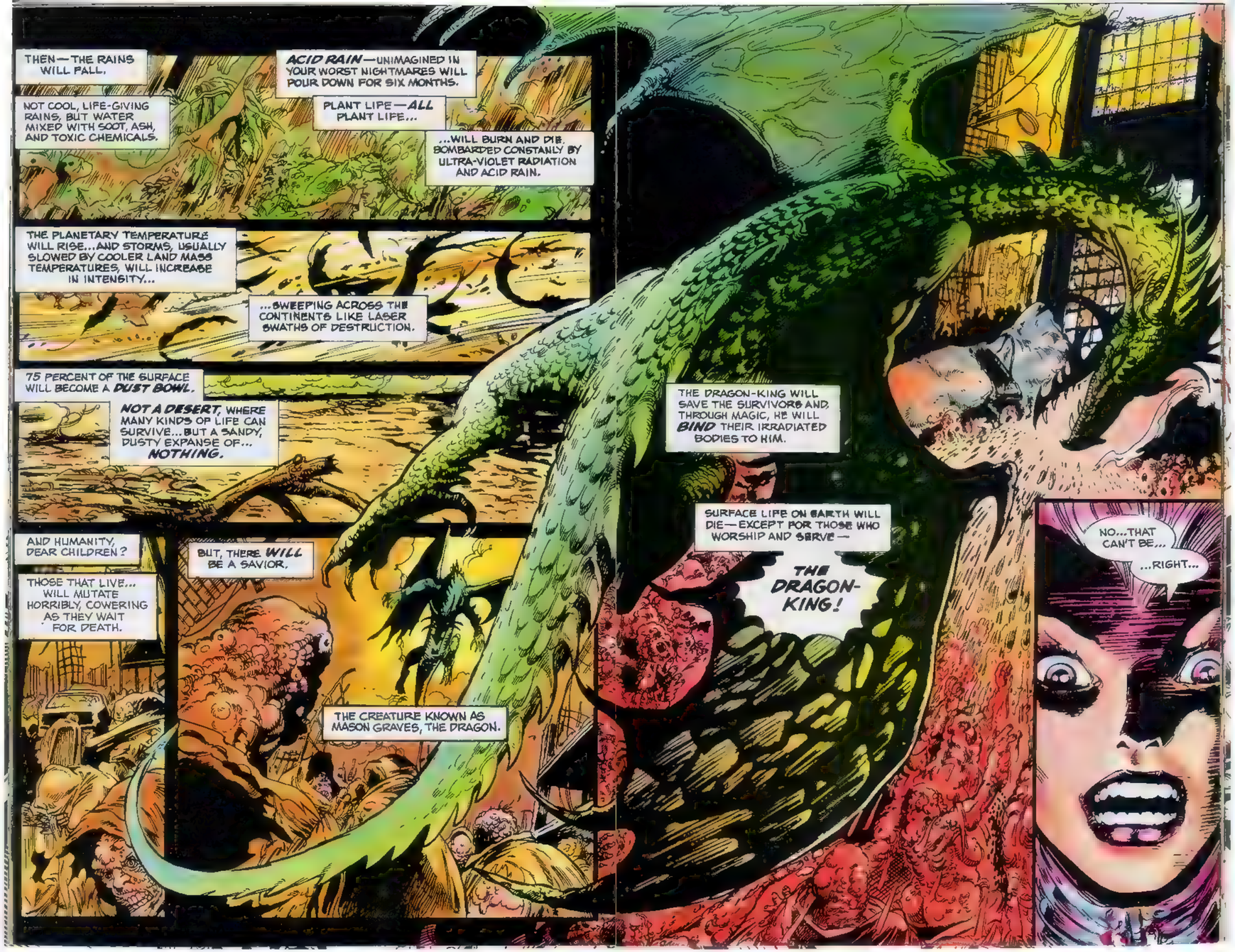
...WITH A LASER CANNON, FORMING A TUNNEL TO THE SURFACE...

...A PLUME OF SUPER-HEATED GASES WILL ERUPT FROM THE CRATER AND INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, CARRYING WITH IT SOOT, ASH, DUST — AND DEADLY CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS.

IT MAY ONLY BURN FOR AN HOUR... MAYBE A DAY... MAYBE A YEAR.

BUT, BY THE TIME THE DENSE MATERIAL IS USED UP..THE EARTH WILL BE A LIVING HELL FOR ALL LIFE.

BOOOM


THEN—THE RAINS WILL FALL.
ACID RAIN—UNIMAGINED IN YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES WILL POUR DOWN FOR SIX MONTHS.
NOT COOL, LIFE-GIVING RAINS, BUT WATER MIXED WITH SOOT, ASH, AND TOXIC CHEMICALS.
PLANT LIFE—ALL PLANT LIFE...
...WILL BURN AND DIE, BOMBARDED CONSTANTLY BY ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION AND ACID RAIN.
THE PLANETARY TEMPERATURE WILL RISE...AND STORMS, USUALLY SLOWED BY COOLER LAND MASS TEMPERATURES, WILL INCREASE IN INTENSITY...
...SWEEPING ACROSS THE CONTINENTS LIKE LASER SWATHS OF DESTRUCTION.
75 PERCENT OF THE SURFACE WILL BECOME A DUST BOWL.
NOT A DESERT, WHERE MANY KINDS OF LIFE CAN SURVIVE...BUT A SANDY, DUSTY EXPANSE OF... NOTHING.
AND HUMANITY, DEAR CHILDREN?
BUT, THERE WILL BE A SAVIOR.
THOSE THAT LIVE... WILL MUTATE HORRIBLY, COWERING AS THEY WAIT FOR DEATH.
THE CREATURE KNOWN AS MASON GRAVES, THE DRAGON.
THE DRAGON-KING WILL SAVE THE SURVIVORS AND, THROUGH MAGIC, HE WILL BIND THEIR IRRADIATED BODIES TO HIM.
SURFACE LIFE ON EARTH WILL DIE—EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO WORSHIP AND SERVE—
THE DRAGON-KING!
NO...THAT CAN'T BE...
...RIGHT...

BUT—

—EVEN THE GREAT DRAGON-KING NEEDED A CERTAIN TECHNOLOGY ONLY THE DARROWS COULD PROVIDE...

...AND MONTHS AGO, THEY MADE A DEADLY PACT.

NOW, THE TITAN ARMIES GATHER NEAR THE HIDDEN GATES TO THE SURFACE WORLD...

...WAITING FOR NEWS THAT THE VOLCANIC CLOUD COVERS THE SKY...

...CUTTING OFF THE SUN'S LIGHT THAT BURNS THEIR SKIN.

THEY'RE WAITING...SO THEY CAN WREAK THEIR REVENGE ON ALL HUMANITY...AND, SO THEY CAN TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS RULERS OF PLANET EARTH'S SURFACE.

THE SURFACE THEY WERE DRIVEN FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.

DRAGON SAID... THEY WERE...JUST ANIMALS... WORKERS...

JUST SO. LIKE A SWARM OF HELL-SPAWNED LOCUSTS... THEY WILL SWEEP ACROSS MY...*BODY*...THE PLANET ISSUING FROM THE UNDERGROUND IN THEIR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

THEIR LUNGS WILL BREATHE THE POLLUTED, SOOT-FILLED AIR WITH IMPUNITY, WHILE MOST SURFACE HUMANS AND ANIMALS CHOKE AND DIE.

DIRECTED BY DARROW, THESE WORKER-ANTS WILL REBUILD THE CITIES IN THEIR OWN IMAGE...CHANGING IN MONTHS WHAT MAN BUILT IN CENTURIES.

Plot **Neal Adams** Story **Peter Stone** Pencils **Aron Wiesenfeld** Inks **Andres Klasik** Color **Monica Bennett**
Art Assist **Neal Adams & Rudy Nebres** Cover **Clarke Hawbaker & Dick Giordano**

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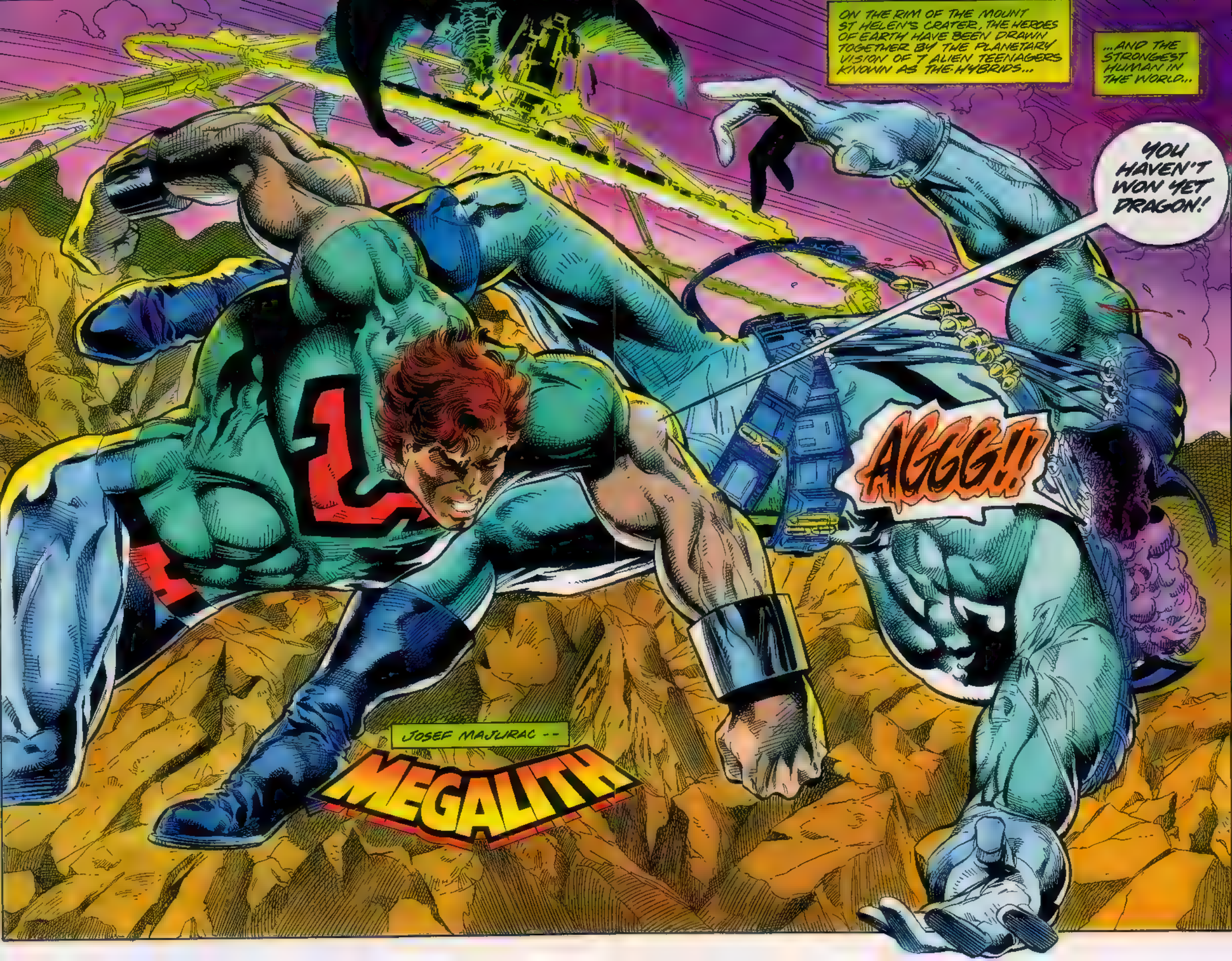
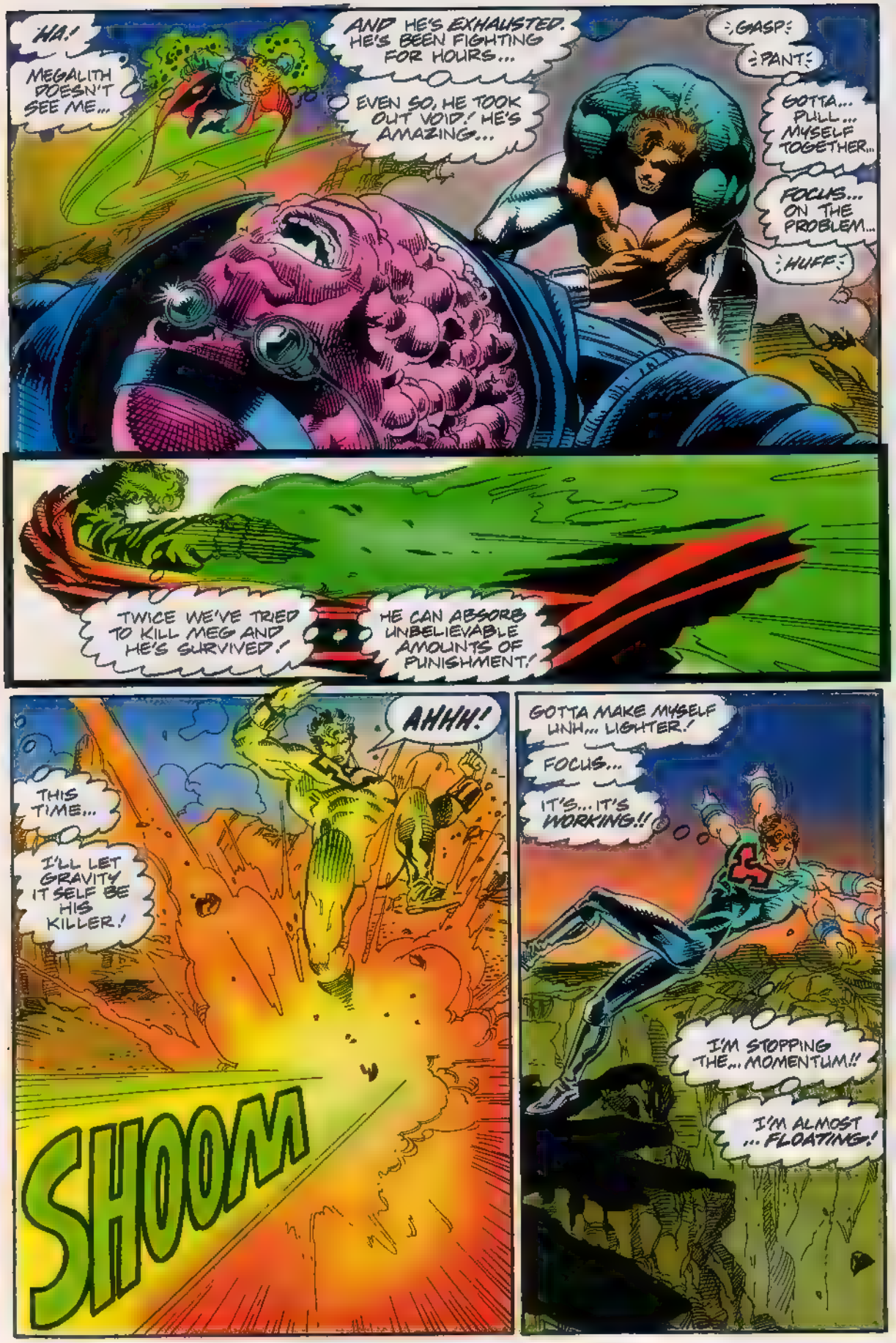
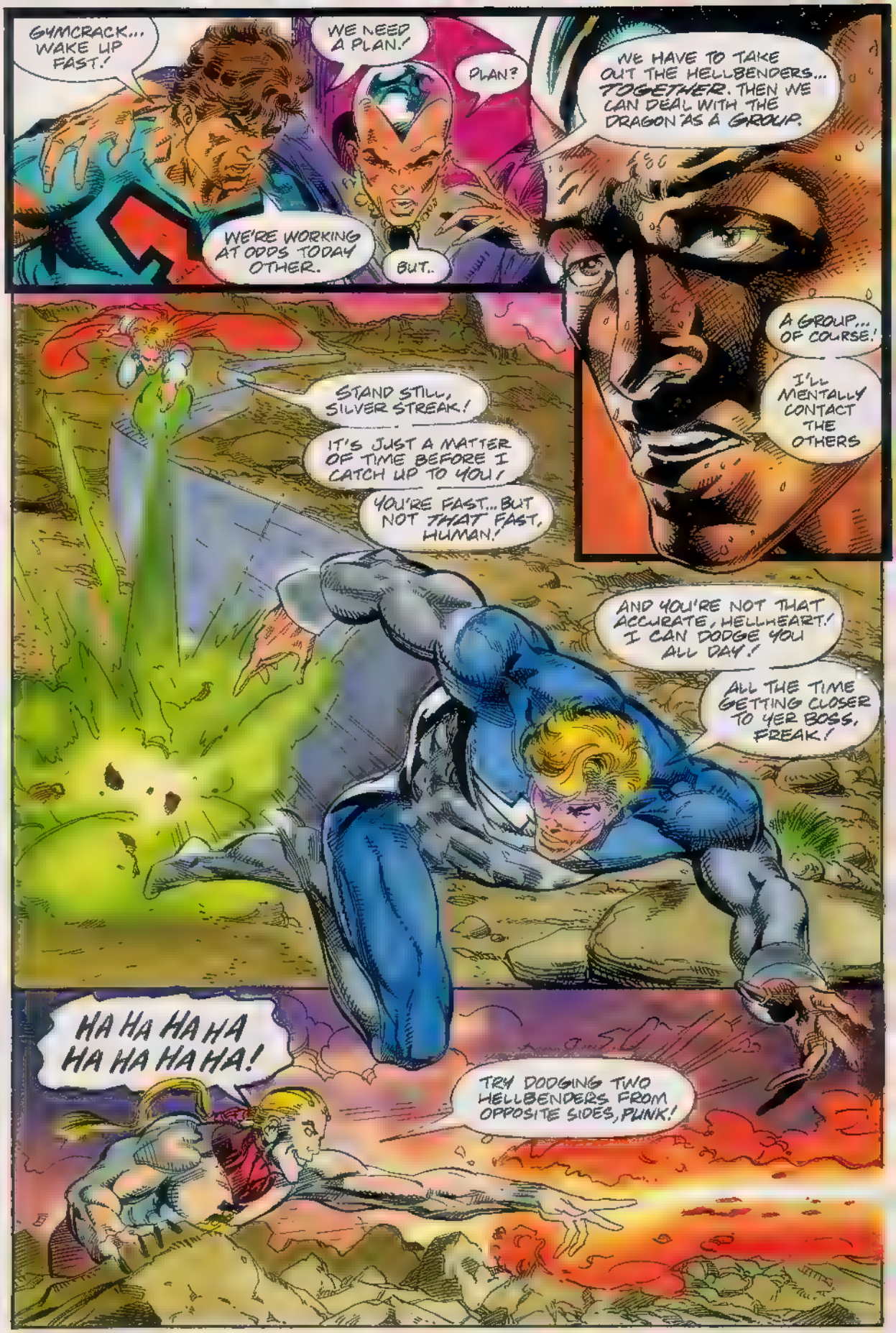

ON THE RIM OF THE MOUNT ST HELEN'S CRATER, THE HEROES OF EARTH HAVE BEEN DRAWN TOGETHER BY THE PLANETARY VISION OF 7 ALIEN TEENAGERS KNOWN AS THE HYBRIDS...
...AND THE STRONGEST HUMAN IN THE WORLD...
YOU HAVEN'T WON YET DRAGON!
AGGG!!
JOSEF MAJURAC --
MEGALITH


HA!
MEGALITH DOESN'T SEE ME...
AND HE'S EXHAUSTED. HE'S BEEN FIGHTING FOR HOURS...
EVEN SO, HE TOOK OUT VOID! HE'S AMAZING...
:GASP:
:PANT:
GOTTA... PULL... MYSELF TOGETHER...
FOCUS... ON THE PROBLEM...
:HUFF:
TWICE WE'VE TRIED TO KILL MEG AND HE'S SURVIVED!
HE CAN ABSORB UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNTS OF PUNISHMENT!
AHHH!
THIS TIME...
I'LL LET GRAVITY IT SELF BE HIS KILLER!
SHOOM
GOTTA MAKE MYSELF UNH... LIGHTER!
FOCUS...
IT'S... IT'S WORKING!!
I'M STOPPING THE... MOMENTUM!!
I'M ALMOST ... FLOATING!

HUH?
FAILED AGAIN, EARTHER!
MEGALITH IS STILL YOUR BETTER!
AND IF I HAD TIME...
...I WOULD PROVE I AM AS WELL. BUT THAT'S ANOTHER DAY, HELLHEART!
I'M AFTER YOUR FOUL MASTER!
BRUTE FORCE SHALL NEVER LAY THIS CREATURE LOW...
HE'S TOO STRONG!
BUT HE IS A CREATURE SPAWNED BY RADIATION...
...AND POWERED BY MAGIC!
THAT IS WHY I AM MOST DEADLY TO HIM!
BY ALLOWING MY MYSTIC EYE TO FULLY OPEN AND ACCESS MY TRUE SOURCE OF MYSTICAL ENERGY...
...ONLY THEN CAN GYMCRACK DESTROY THE FORM OF THE DRAGON!

BACK AGAIN, LITTLE MAGE?
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YOUR CAUSE IS DOOMED NOW...?
URK!
WHAT... DID YOU DO? I FEEL... ODD...
YAHHHHH!
YOU TRANSFORMED ME BACK INTO A HUMAN... WITH A SIMPLE SPELL?!
THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE!!
HAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA
OH, NO... I MUST BE HELPLESS NOW! RIGHT, HYBRID?
S THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT?
DID YOU THINK MY POWER WAS CONNECTED ONLY TO MY DRAGON FORM?
FOOL!
MY POWER EXTENDS DEEPER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!
DEEP... DEEP... INTO EVEN YOUR VERY SOUL, GYMCRACK.

ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU.
IN MY HAND IS YOUR PRECIOUS EYE... SOURCE OF YOUR... POWER.
...WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CRUSH IT!
HUUARRRG!
GYMCRACK! HE'S NOT FLYING...
HE'LL DIE AT THIS HEIGHT!
IF I TIME THIS RIGHT... I CAN SNAG HIM... AND USE THE MOMENTUM...
...TO CARRY US BOTH TO THE NEXT LEDGE!
MADE IT! BUT NOW FOR THE REAL HARD WORK...
... ...CONVINCING GYMCRACK THAT WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME WITH ALL THIS.
IF EVERYONE DOESN'T WAKE UP FAST...
...WE'RE GOING TO LOSE EVERYTHING TO THE DRAGON!!


GYMCRACK... WAKE UP FAST!
WE NEED A PLAN!
PLAN?
WE HAVE TO TAKE OUT THE HELLBENDERS... TOGETHER. THEN WE CAN DEAL WITH THE DRAGON AS A GROUP.
WE'RE WORKING AT ODDS TODAY OTHER.
BUT..
A GROUP... OF COURSE!
I'LL MENTALLY CONTACT THE OTHERS
STAND STILL, SILVER STREAK!
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I CATCH UP TO YOU!
YOU'RE FAST... BUT NOT THAT FAST, HUMAN!
AND YOU'RE NOT THAT ACCURATE, HELLHEART! I CAN DODGE YOU ALL DAY!
ALL THE TIME GETTING CLOSER TO YER BOSS, FREAK!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
TRY DODGING TWO HELLBENDERS FROM OPPOSITE SIDES, PUNK!

YA-
UGH!
DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING...
...BUT I CAN ABSORB MOST OF THE HEAT ENERGY!
AND USE IT TO TURN THE TABLE ON THAT HELLFIRE GUY.
AND I'VE GOT A BEAD ON HELLFIRE NOW!
LET'S SEE IF HE CAN TAKE WHAT HE DISHES OUT!
ARG!
STAY BACK FOR A MOMENT, HELLFIRE... SILVER STREAK'S OBVIOUSLY TIRED--
--AND I'M GONNA MAKE SURE HE STAYS THAT WAY FOREVER!
TIRED, HELLHEART?

WHOA!
HE'S...THAT FAST!?!
HE'S BEEN... FAKING... ALL THIS TIME...
THAT'S RIGHT DIRTBAG. I LURED YOU AWAY FROM THIS INCLINE I SPOTTED EARLIER...
...WHICH I'M GONNA USE AS A RAMP TO GIVE ME SOME HEIGHT...
NO CHANGE MEG!
THE DRAGON GOES DOWN NOW!!
SILVER STREAK! STOP!
JACQUES! WE NEED TO... THAT!!
I'VE BEEN SAVING UP ENERGY FOR ONE SHOT.-
AND THIS IS IT!!

LAUNCHED AND RISING SILVER STREAK REACHES THE APEX OF HIS ARC.

TOUGH TALK. NOW I GOTTA BACK IT UP WITH SOME SERIOUS ACTION.

GOTTA USE MY HEAD THOUGH, CAUSE DRAGON'S NOT GONNA GIVE ME TWO SHOTS.

SO I GOTTA DO WHAT HE'LL NEVER EXPECT...

HEY, DRAGON-

-GAME'S OVER!!

AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO TOAST YOU WITH RADIATED PLASM--

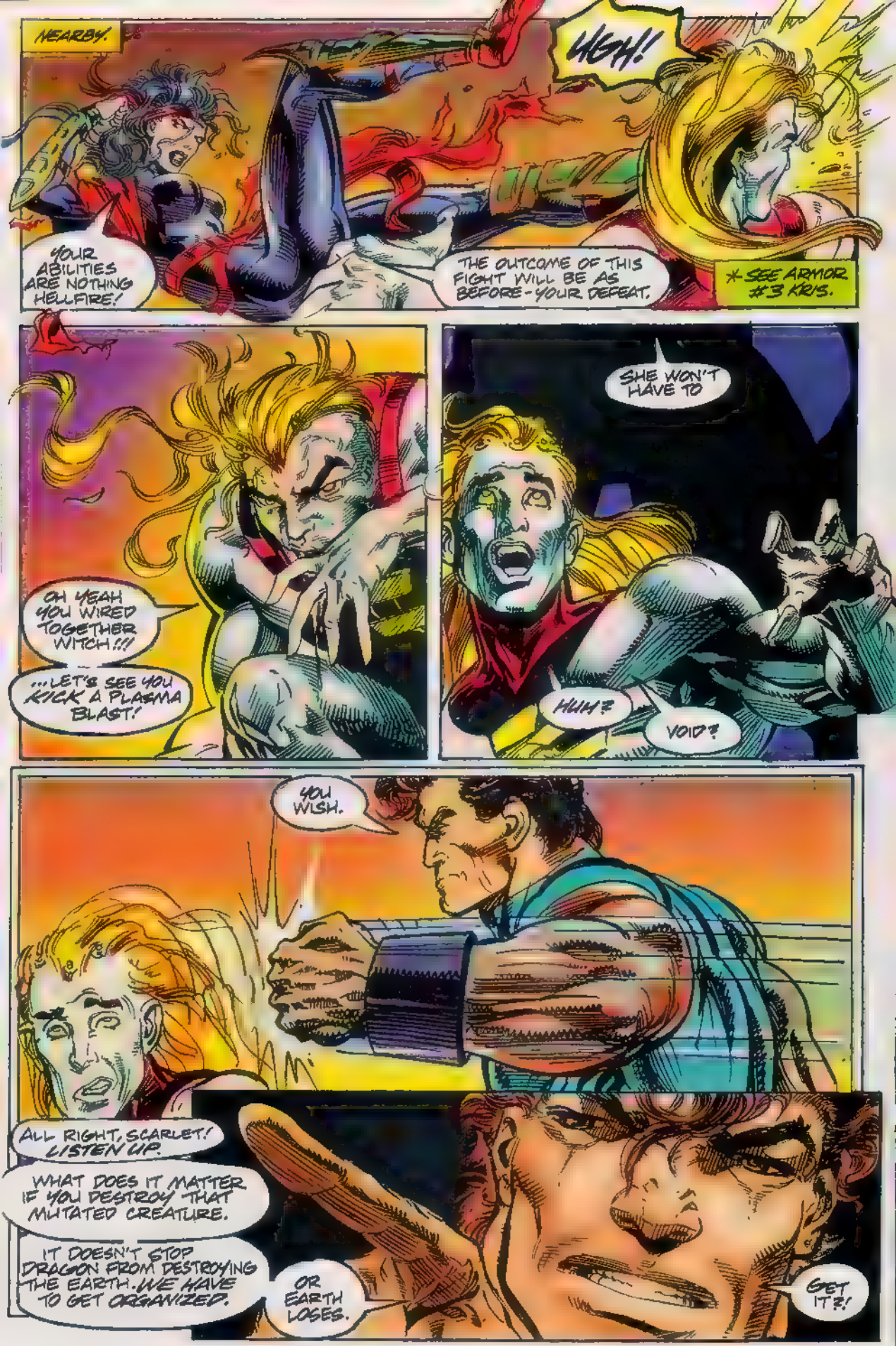
--IT'S THAT LASER CANNON I'M GONNA WASTE!

MY... CANNON...

UGH!

AHA HA HA HA!
MISSED MR. YOU POOR FOOL AND THE CANNON IS STILL FUNCTIONING!
ALL THAT ENERGY, EH SILVER STREAK... YOU TRIED SO HARD.
BUT... AFTER ALL... I AM A DRAGON.!..
YOU IDIOT.!
SAY GOOD BY TO YOUR LIFE.! HA HA HA HA!
HE'S.. RIGHT...
TOO MUCH ENERGY GONE...
CAN'T FIGHT.. OR EVEN SAVE MYSELF...
BURN IN HADES!

MISTAKE, DRAGON!!
HEAT EQUALS ENERGY.
-YOU JUST POWERED ME UP!!
AND IT'S COMING RIGHT BACK AT CHA!
EH? DID I FEEL SOMETHING?
A BREEZE..?
OR PERHAPS IT'S JUST GAS?
I'VE GOT YOU, SILVER STREAK! DON'T WASTE ANY MORE ENERGY ON THE DRAGON.
WHUG! OH NO..? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
DRAGON YOU'RE MINE!
DO YOU HEAR ME DRAGON?
MINE!
MEGALITH HAS THE ANSWERS!
WE CAN'T FIGHT THE DRAGON ALONE...


NEARBY.
UGH!
YOUR ABILITIES ARE NOTHING HELLFIRE!
THE OUTCOME OF THIS FIGHT WILL BE AS BEFORE - YOUR DEFEAT.
* SEE ARMOR #3 KRIS.
OH YEAH YOU WIRED TOGETHER WITCH!!!
...LET'S SEE YOU KICK A PLASMA BLAST!
SHE WON'T HAVE TO
HUH?
VOID?
YOU WISH.
ALL RIGHT, SCARLET! LISTEN UP.
WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF YOU DESTROY THAT MUTATED CREATURE.
IT DOESN'T STOP DRAGON FROM DESTROYING THE EARTH. WE HAVE TO GET ORGANIZED.
OR EARTH LOSES.
GET IT?!

OKAY... I GUESS I WAS HAVING TOO MUCH FUN...
...WHILE THE WORLD FELL APART AROUND ME...
SORRY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO GET YOUR BROTHER
PAY BACK TIME, ARMOR!
YOU? A SORRY BAG A SPARE PARTS?!
GET A GRIP ON REALITY!
...BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS! FUN AND GAMES!
UAK!
SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, ARMOR...

STICK AROUND LEPER
ARMOR. SARCASTIC COMMENTS AREN'T GONNA SAVE THIS PLANET.
I'M JUST GETTING HIM OUTTA THE WAY.
YAARG!
UH!
SHINK
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL MUSCLES?
WHY AREN'T WE OUT THERE KICKING TAIL?
LOOK- WE'VE GOT THREE THINGS.
THESE MUTANT FREAKS, THE HELLBENDERS...
...A DRAGON...
...AND A LASER BEAM BURNING IT'S WAY INTO THE EARTH.
WHO THINKS WE SHOULD WASTE OUR TIME, FIGHTING THE HELLBENDERS?
ONLY THE LASER IS GOING TO DESTROY THE EARTH!
THE FREAKS ARE JUST KEEPING US BUSY... AND WE ALL FELL FOR IT!
THE ONLY THING THAT IS IMPORTANT IS STOPING THAT BEAM!
BUT...
NO BUTS! IT'S TOO LATE FOR BUTS!
I'M GONNA TRY AND STOP THE DRAGON!
BUT YOU GUYS...
...YOU HAVE TO STOP THAT BEAM!
OR DEFLECT IT! BUT GO-NOW!
NOW!

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES - BUT STOP THAT BEAM!
THE HYBRIDS, GAMMORACK AND CYCLONE, ELEVATE THE OTHERS WHO CAN'T FLY--
--UP OVER THE MOUNT ST. HELEN'S CRATER--
--AND THEN DOWN INTO THE HOLE CREATED BY THE NUCLEAR DETONATION EARLIER.*
HUFF! PANT! GASP!
I'M WASTED... (GASP)
GOTTA HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER... TILL THE CANNON IS DESTROYED...
...CAN'T STOP.. THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT...
* SEE MEGALITH #3 - KRIS.

THEN... AT THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE CRATER'S RIM... JOSEF MAJURAC HALTS, EXPERIENCING ONE OF THE WAR'S GREATEST ODDITIES --

THE STRANGE SILENCE THAT CAN COME IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE...

THE HAUNTING QUIET BEFORE THE STORM CLOUDS LET LOOSE.

DRAGON...

AH... THERE YOU ARE, MEGALITH!
CARE TO TRY TAKIN' US ON WHEN WE CAN SEE YOU, COWARD!?
WE GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE DEAD THIS TIME, MUSCLES!
THEN COME AND GET SOME, 'BENDERS!
DON'T TOUCH THAT MAN HELLFIRE!
AND... DON'T SWEAT IT I'VE GOT ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU.
MEGALITH IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF EARTH 4!
AND YOU... WELL... YOU'RE NOT.
HUH?
WASSAT?

CRUNCH
HEY... YOU HELLBENDERS READY FOR A TOTALLY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE?
TOUCH MEG...
...AND IT'S YOUR LAST ACT ON EARTH!
NOW THEN...
...WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
UH...
YOU'RE ALL... SUPPOSED TO BE... TAKEN CARE OF...
'FEARS WE'RE ON OUR OWN, HELL HEART.
SIGH...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO IT OURSELVES!
LOCK AND LOAD, BUDS.
MANY MILES BELOW THE STAND OFF, THE DRAGON'S DEADLY LASER BEAM CONTINUES DOWNWARD RELENTLESSLY...
...PAUSING ONLY BRIEFLY AT THE FINAL ROCKY BARRIER...

...BEFORE SMASHING THROUGH TO THE REALM KNOWN AS THE MAGMA FIELDS OF CITH KASTI.
AND ONE SPECIAL LAKE OF LAVA BECOMES THE TARGET--
-CHOSEN BY KASTI HIMSELF AS PER DRAGON'S WISHES--
-FOR IT IS THE "HEAVY METAL"!
THERMAL BATS GATHER... SENSING THE LIGHT AND THE HEAT...
...KNOWING THAT THIS STRANGE SHAFT OF LIGHT COULD ALTER THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET.

WHILE ON THE SURFACE, THE BESEIGED HELLDENIERS AND THE GATHERED HEROES ARE SHOCKED BY A VOICE THAT MAKES THEIR BATTLE SEEM FOOLISH.

TOO LATE HEROES!

I HAVE CUT THROUGH TO THE "HEAVY METAL" CORE SHAFT!

I HAVE ONLY TO ACCELERATE PHOTONS IN THAT MASS AND A FUSION REACTION WILL BE CREATED!

LIFE AS YOU KNOW IT WILL END! THEN WILL RISE THE DAY OF THE DRAGON-KI-

NO!

THOUGH IT MAY CAUSE MY DEATH-

-I WILL ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE NO LONGER!

LARGER THAN LIFE...

LARGER THAN DEATHWATCH 2000...

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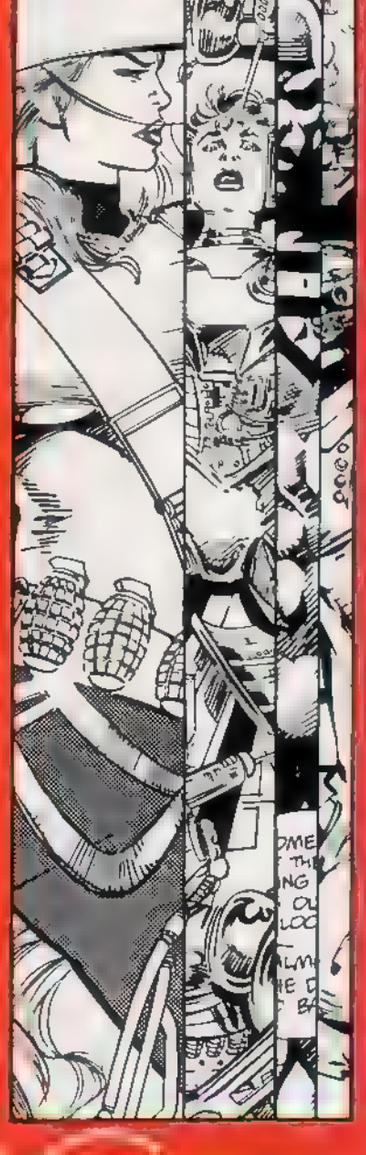
AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE.



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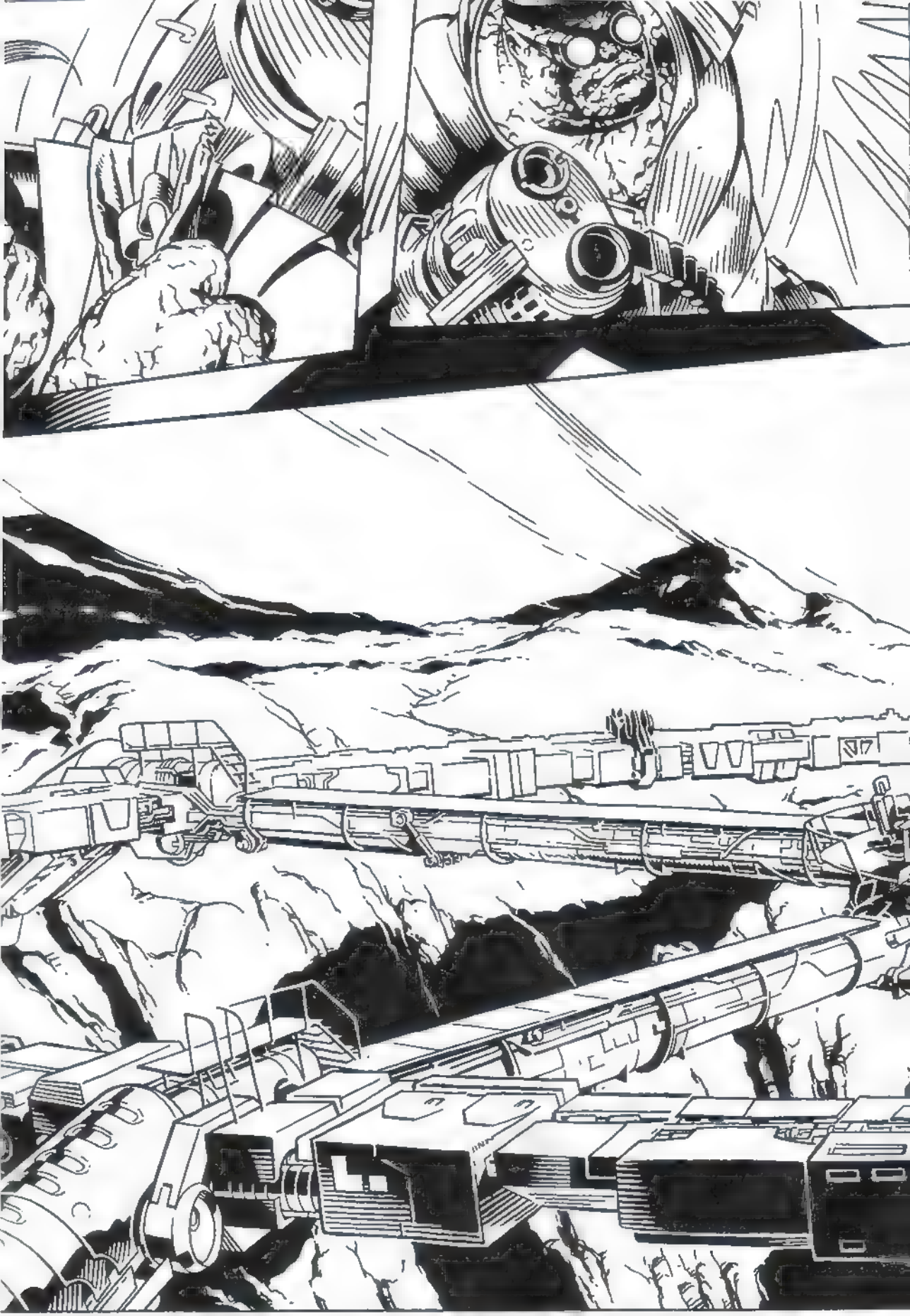

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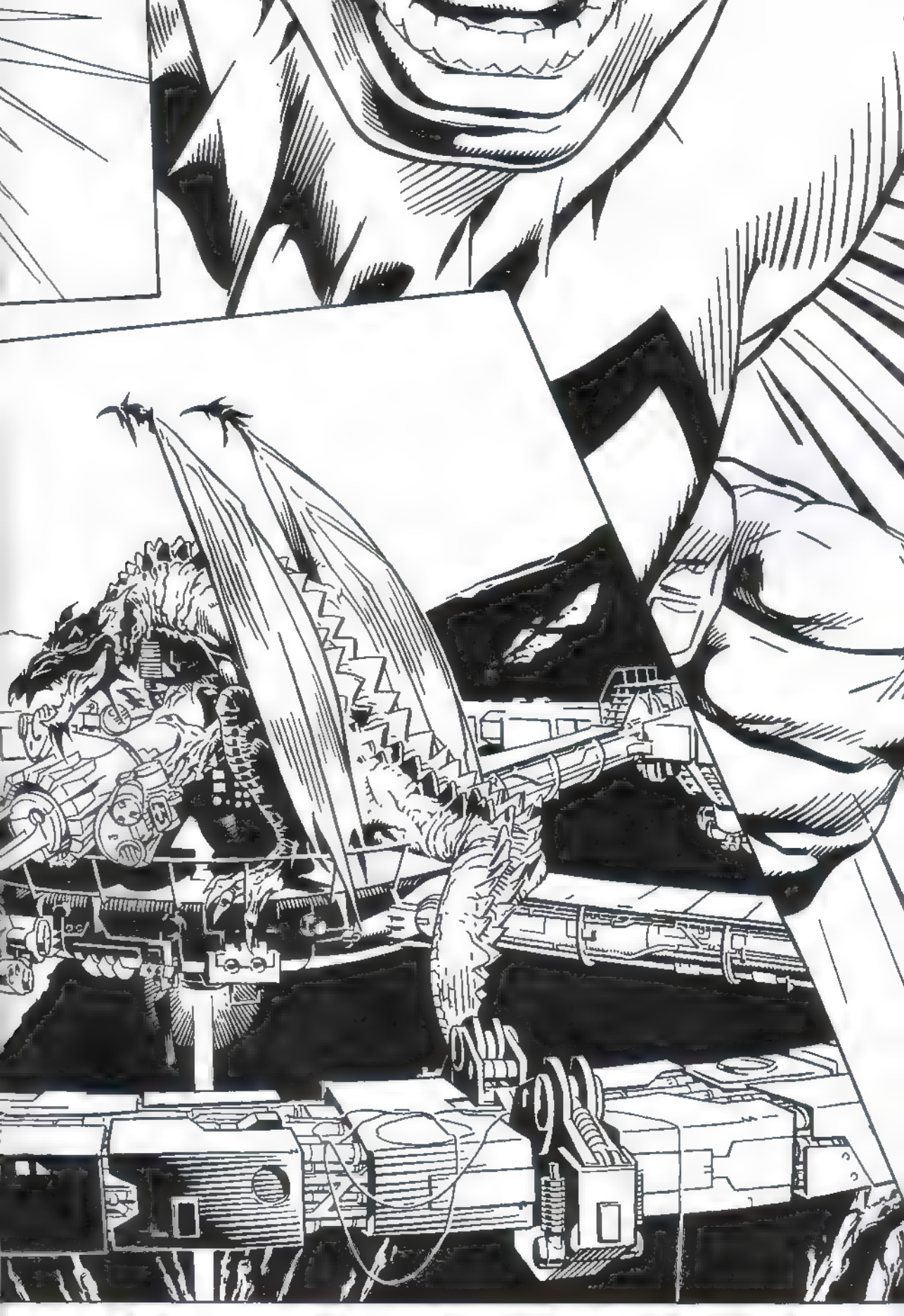

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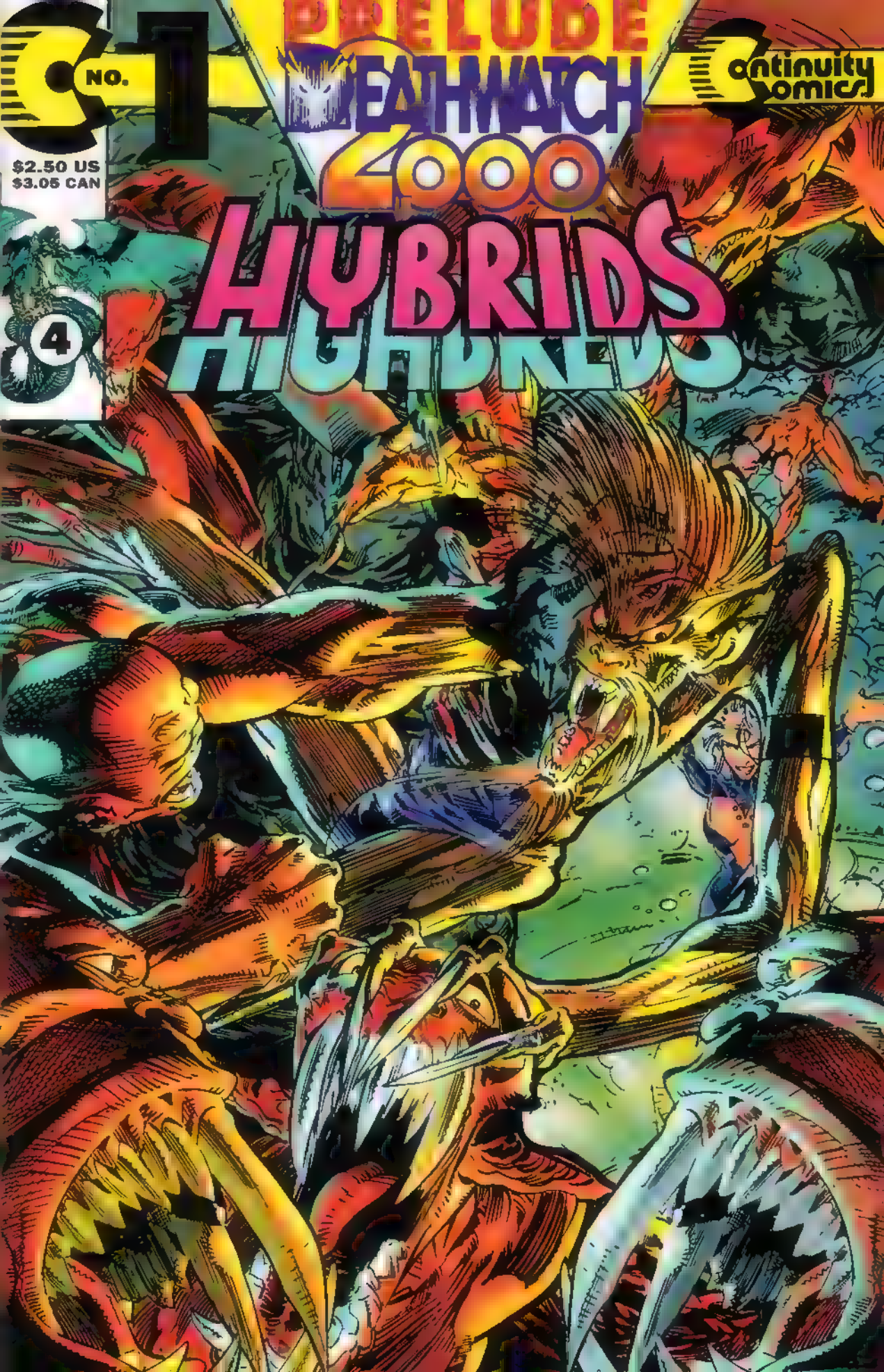
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